HILLMAN SCHOLARS
IN NURSING INNOVATION

2020-21 Scholar Directory

Updated July 2020

Index

Stephanie Acquaye
University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate
acquayes@nursing.upenn.edu

Stephanie Acquaye works as a research assistant at the Weber Lab at Penn.
Research Interests: Availability, accessibility, and utilization of community-level postpartum support services and their relationship to maternal health outcomes.
Mentor(s): Kimberly Trout, PhD, CNM, APRN/Diane Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN
Expected date of PhD Completion: TBD

Gillian Adynski, PhD
Duke University | National Clinician Scholar
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
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 explored the health workforce of middle and low-income countries. She is also a competitive fencer and former Captain of UNC's fencing team. She begins a postdoc as a National Clinician Scholar at Duke University to investigate the role of nurses in building a strong global health workforce to provide high quality and cost-effective health services to populations around the world.
Research Interests: global public health
HSNI Interest Groups: International, health services and systems research, policy
Mentor(s): Cheryl Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN; Pam McQuide, PhD, RN

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

Harry Adynski graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNC in May 2018. He is investigating 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; John Gilmore, MD
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2022

Sallie Allgood, PhD, MS, BSN, BS
Durham VAMC and Duke University | National Clinician Scholar
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
sallie.allgood@duke.edu

Sallie Diane Allgood, of Durham, North Carolina, earned a BS in Biochemistry from Campbell University in 2000 and a MS 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, earning her BS in Nursing in May of 2015 and Ph.D. in Nursing in May of 2019. Sallie's dissertation explored the active ingredients of a community health worker (CHW) delivered cardiovascular disease prevention intervention. Sallie continues to be active

Sallie Allgood (continued)   in the efforts across North Carolina to recognize and support the CHW workforce. Sallie is currently a National Clinician Scholar at the Durham VAMC and Duke University. Her research during this fellowship is focused on understanding primary care team dynamics, the role of CHWs in primary care settings, and ways to best integrate CHWs into primary care settings. When not in the office, Sallie enjoys gardening, sewing, and spending time with her family.
Research Interests: community health workers, chronic disease control and prevention, health care teams, implementation science
HSNI Interest Groups: Disparities, Chronic Disease, Health services and systems research, Policy, Implementation and Translation

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

Jessie Axsom is a second year Accelerated BSN-PhD student. Her research interests are exercise-induced epigenetic changes and how this impacts cardiometabolic disease risk and prevention. She is clinically interested in working with older adults with cardiometabolic multimorbidities and incorporating trauma informed care and harm reduction practices into nursing.
Research Interests: exercise, epigenetics, cardiovascular disease
Mentor(s): Joseph Libonati, PhD, FAHA, Zoltan Arany, MD, PhD
Expected date of PhD Completion: May 2023
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jessie_Axsom

Sydney A. Axson, PhD, MPH, BSN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
sydaxson@nursing.upenn.edu

Sydney A. Axson is a fourth-year PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation explores 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): Jennifer Pinto Martin, PhD, MPH; Catherine McDonald, PhD, RN; Peggy Compton, PHD, RN, FAAN; Connie M. Ulrich, PhD, RN, FAAN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sydneyaxson

Amy Elizabeth Barrera-Cancedda, BSN, RN, MPH
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): Alison M. Buttenheim, PhD MBA (Chair), Justin Clapp, PhD, MPH, Rinad Beidas, PhD, Susan Michael-Strasser, PhD, MPH (Columbia School of Public Health)
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2020
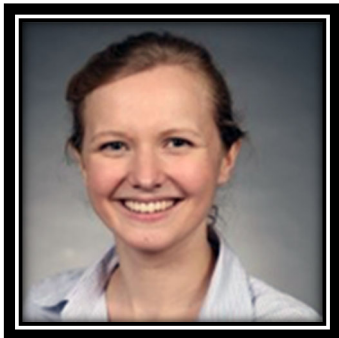
Kaitlin Best, PhD, RN
T32 Post-doctoral Fellow, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2015
bestk1@email.chop.edu

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, RN
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate
stephbg@email.unc.edu

Stephanie Betancur is a doctoral student and research assistant in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also an inpatient registered nurse in the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at UNC Health. She earned a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Spanish Literature and Cultures from Appalachian State University. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a member of the 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars. Her primary research interest is in health disparities in oncology care. She is a member of the North Carolina Nurses Association, the Oncology Nursing Society, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society in Nursing—Alpha Alpha Chapter.
Research Interests: health disparities in oncology care
HSNI Interest Groups: Disparities, Cancer, Practice Change
Mentor(s): Ashley 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 PhD student at Penn Nursing earning a dual degree in Statistics from the Wharton School. She earned a BS in Biology and International Relations from Tufts University. Her research focuses on the early identification of neurodevelopmental differences in childhood, especially Autism Spectrum Disorder, from a sociological and health disparities framework. She uses an interdisciplinary approach to study young children over time in local and international settings, including Central America and China. In Philadelphia, Stacey is a practicing nurse in pediatric psychiatry. She collaborates in research and clinical projects at Penn, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and community partners on nursing interventions that promote wellness for children and their families. She enjoys lecturing on child psychology, global health, and historical contexts of nursing practice. 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.
Research Interests: pediatric neurodevelopment, global health, Autism Spectrum Disorder
Mentor(s): Jennifer Pinto-Martin, PhD, MPH; Jianghong Liu, PhD, RN; Margaret Souders, PhD, CRNP
Expected date of PhD Completion: May 2022
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/stacey-bevan-82a67793

Katelyn Blanchard, BA
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate
katelyn.blanchard@unc.edu

Katelyn Blanchard 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: 2025
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/katelyn-blanchard-292a2a76/

Augustine Boateng
University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate
boateng@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Augustine Boateng is a first year accelerated BSN-PhD student. He recently completed an MPH at Penn. He also has a BS in Psychology from Brigham Young University in Hawaii.
Research Interests: The intersection between spirituality, mental health, and trauma; specifically the role in spirituality in building resilience among African American families.
Mentor(s): Bridgette Brawner, PhD, APRN; Terry Richmond, PhD, RB
Expected date of PhD Completion: TBA

Emily Boltey, PhD, RN
Surgical ICU Nurse | UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
bolteyem@umich.edu

Emily Boltey defended her dissertation at the University of Michigan in August 2019. In her dissertation, Emily tested the feasibility of using time-motion methods to quantify the process of interprofessional collaboration in the care of critically ill adults. Emily moved back to her hometown, Pittsburgh, PA in September 2019 and accepted a position to work as a professional staff nurse in the Surgical ICU at UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, Emily is currently working on the frontlines as an ICU nurse providing care to Covid patients in the health system's designated Covid-19 ICU. Emily is also a member of the Evidence-based Practice and Research Council at UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside.
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

Stephen Bonett, PhD, RN
Postdoctoral Fellow, PSTAR, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
University of Pennsylvania| Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
stepdo@nursing.upenn.edu

Stephen Bonett's is focused on identifying structural barriers to HIV prevention and leveraging the power of social networks to promote community health and advocate for systemic change towards health equity. His clinical interests include public health nursing and adolescent health.
Research Interests: HIV, sexual and gender minorities, health equity, public health, networks, adolescent health
Mentor(s): Drs. José Bauermeister and Robin Stevens
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-bonett-1a128267

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

Lilian Guadalupe Bravo is a 2018 graduate of UNC's BSN program. She aspires to optimize mental health care for Latinx youth through culturally tailored interventions and is funded by a T32 Pre-Doctoral Trainee Award, NR007091-22: Interventions for Preventing & Managing Chronic Illness. Her current research interests are to (1) understand suicidality among Latinx adolescents in the context of trauma exposure and (2) identify mental health service engagement strategies for Latinx adolescents with depression and suicidality. She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, National Latinx Psychological Association, and Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. In her spare time, she likes keeping up with new music releases, mentoring, and spending time with her chihuahua, Miguel.
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; Gabriela Livas-Stein, PhD
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2022

Laura E. Britton, PhD, BSN, BA
T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018
leb2216@cumc.columbia.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 PhD in Nursing in December 2018. Her long-term goal is to improve reproductive health outcomes for women with chronic illnesses, especially those who are underserved. She received 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
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4051-3751
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1N7v59RNefuk9/bibliography/public/

Elizabeth Broden, BSN, RN, CCRN
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. Her 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
Mentor(s): Martha A.Q. Curley, PhD, RN; Pamela Hinds, PhD, RN
Expected date of PhD Completion: November 2020
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabeth-broden-46b97aa9
Twitter: @ebronurse

Jason Brown, PhD, RN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
Jason.r.brown@medstar.net

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): Alison M. Buttenheim, PhD, MBA; Salimah H. Meghani, PhD, MBE, RN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jason-brown-00b23a17a

Marta Bruce, PhD, RN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
brucemar@nursing.upenn.edu
brucem@pennmedicine.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 in Neurology/Neurosurgery Critical Care.
Research Interests: health disparities, trauma injury, PTSD, geographic methods
HSNI Interest Groups: Mental Health, Disparities, Policy
Mentor(s): Therese S. Richmond, PhD, RN; Connie Ulrich, PhD, RN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/marta-b-772379106/

Andrea Cazales, BSN
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | 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: 2024

Martha Grace Cromeens, BSN, BA, MA, JD
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | 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.
Research Interests: The intersection of the legal and health care systems, with an emphasis on issues in delayed diagnosis of endometriosis.
Mentor(s): Suzanne Thoyre, PhD, RN, FAAN; Whitney Robinson, PhD
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2022

Kristen R. Choi, PhD, MS, RN
Assistant Professor, University of California Los Angeles
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017
krchoi@ucla.edu

Kristen Choi is a child/adolescent psychiatric nurse and health services researcher. Dr. Choi studies health services and policy approaches to behavioral health, trauma, and violence among children. Her current research projects include studies on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), adverse childhood experiences, the impact of trauma and violence on nurses, and health system factors associated with firearm violence. She is a member of the first cohort of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)-funded Stakeholder-Partnered Implementation Research and Innovation Translation (SPIRIT) K12 Program at UCLA. With this career development award, Dr. Choi is studying ASD services at Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPSC) and patient outcomes associated with implementation of California's autism mandate. She is an Adjunct Investigator in the Department of Research & Evaluation at KPSC and an Associate Director of Nursing for the UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program. Dr. Choi maintains a clinical practice as a registered nurse (RN) at a community psychiatric hospital in Downtown Los Angeles.
HSNI Interest Groups: Children, Mental Health, Health services and systems research, Policy

Megan Czerwinski, PhD, BA, BSN, RN
Assessment Specialist, Michigan Sustainability Cases
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
maczerwi@umich.edu

Meg Czerwinski's 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; and a member of Academy Health, the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and North American Association for Environmental Education.
Research interests: environmental justice, sustainability education, community health promotion
Mentor(s): Olga Yakusheva, PhD and Yasamin Kusunoki, PhD, MPH
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/megan-czerwinski-a50b8068

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

Marguerite Daus is a third-year PhD student. Her research interests include the optimization of healthcare transitions, specifically from hospital to home, in high-needs, high-risk patients. 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. Her dissertation is focused on the association between hospitals nurse work environments and disparities in Hispanic surgical patients' readmissions.
Research Interests: Disparities, health services research, transitions, health equity
Mentor(s): Margo Brooks Carthon, PhD; Matthew McHugh, PhD, JD, MPH
Expected date of PhD Completion: May 2021
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/marguerite-daus-95450575/
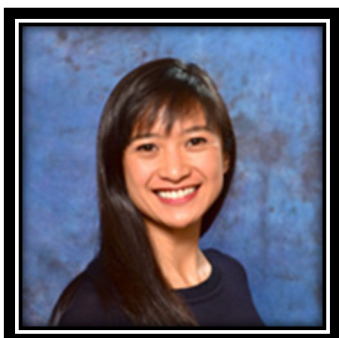
Cindy del Rosario, BSN, PhD, RN, AM
Registered Nurse Case Manager at The Denver Hospice
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018

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- Chapel Hill | 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
Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018
adierkes@upenn.edu

Andrew Dierkes is a nurse, researcher, and entrepreneur. He worked at the bedside of medical-surgical inpatients at Pennsylvania Hospital, which grounded his academic work as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. This combination of experience has exposed the need for improved nurse staffing and assignment-making processes, as well as the potential for an evidence-generating approach to match patients with nurses for improved outcomes. This is especially important in low-resource settings and among vulnerable patient populations. The resulting startup is actively engaged in software prototyping and is seeking partnerships to advance its research, development, and beta testing. The National Science Foundation and the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation have both funded this work in the past and are currently reviewing proposals for continued funding. This fall, Andrew will join the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing in a tenure stream position as an assistant professor.
HSNI Interest Groups: Chronic Disease, Aging, International, Health services & systems research, Implementation and Translation

Crisma Emmanuel, BSN, BS
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | 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.
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: 2021

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 's 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.

Jane Evered, PhD, RN
Primary Care Research Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Wisconsin – Madison
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
jane.evered5@gmail.com

Jane Evered is a May 2020 graduate of the Hillman Program at the University of Pennsylvania. She is passionate about relational care and qualitative approaches to inquiry. She completed her undergraduate studies in Human Biology at Stanford University where she studied the educational experiences of youth who manage chronic illnesses. Moving to Philadelphia, she pursued an accelerated bachelor's in nursing program and Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania as part of the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation. Dr. Evered's program of research has centered on end-of-life experiences of adolescents and young adults with life-limiting illnesses and injuries, with a particular focus on social experiences. During the Primary Care Research Fellowship, Dr. Evered strives to pursue research and advocacy collaborations that work towards improving person, family, friend, and clinician experiences of health & healthcare.
Research Interests: adolescents and emerging adults, end of life care, social relationships, qualitative methods
Mentor(s): Sarah Kagan, PhD, RN, FAAN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jane-evered-97032b69/

Alex J. Fauer, PhD, RN
National Clinician Scholar and Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
ajfau@umich.edu

Alex Fauer's research examines the influences of health policies and innovative models of care on access, quality, and patient-centered outcomes in the contexts of cancer care and cellular therapy. He primarily uses large, quantitative sources of national health data for research but has additional training in conducting mixed-method research. He is a recipient of the American Cancer Society's Doctoral Degree Scholarship in Cancer Nursing. He is an incoming fellow of the National Clinician Scholars Program at UCLA in the 2020-2022 cohort. Additionally, Alex is an avid triathlete and will compete at the 2020 Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Taupo, New Zealand in November 2020.
Mentor(s): Christopher R. Friese, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/alex-fauer-bsn-rn-520757b5
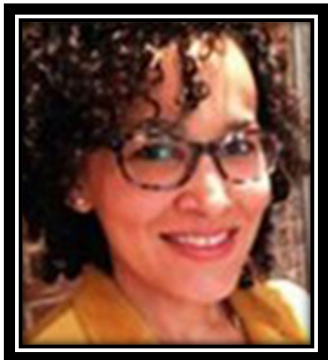
Elizabeth Finnessy
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate

Elizabeth "Liz" Finnessy is a member of the 8th cohort of Hillman Scholars.
Research Interests: Research Interests: Women's understanding of the nature of a good birth, and how nurses can contribute to achieving their vision of a good birth.
Mentor(s): TBA
Date of PhD Completion: 2025

Emilia Flores, PhD, RN
Clinical Pathways Program Manager, UPHS
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017
emilia.flores@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Emilia Flores' research interests include understanding methods to improve the adoption of evidence-based practice at the point of care and identifying the impact of technology on patient safety and the provision of care. In addition, she focuses on how behavioral economics and human factors engineering principles can be used to promote technology acceptance and enhance the quality of health service delivery. She is the Clinical Pathways Program Manager at the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Kierra Foley, BSN, RN
University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate
kierraf@nursing.upenn.edu

Kierra Foley is a first-year PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her current research interests focus on the health and wellness of sexual and gender minority elders. She is interested in how access to housing impacts this population's health.
Research Interests: geriatrics, LGBTQ+ health, SGM health, health equity, health disparities, LGBTQ+ elders, public health, housing, social isolation
Mentor(s): Nancy Hodgson, PhD, RN, FAAN; José Bauermeister, PhD, MPH
Expected date of PhD Completion: May 2023

Eileen French, MS, RN
University of Pennsylvania| PhD Candidate
eileenr@nursing.upenn.edu

Eileen French 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
Mentors: Catherine McDonald, PhD, RN; Alexandra Hanlon, PhD
Expected PhD Completion: August 2020
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/eileen-regan-rn-ms-bsn-008b9121/

Hayley D. Germack, PhD, MHS, RN
Assistant Professor, 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

Hayley Germack
(continued)

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
Assistant Professor, Emory University
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018
nicholas.giordano@emory.edu

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

Gabrielle Grant, BA
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate

Gabrielle Grant of Dracut, MA, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA in 2017. She is currently enrolled in UNC's ABSN program and is a member of the 8th cohort of Hillman Scholars. Gabrielle previously worked as a clinical research coordinator at Shriners Hospitals for Children - Boston and the Massachusetts General Hospital. In her free time, she enjoys reading, crocheting blankets, and discovering new music and podcasts.
Research Interests: sexual assault and domestic violence survivors and their response to trauma
Mentor(s): TBA
Expected date of PhD Completion: TBA

Prashamsha Haridass
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | 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 her 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 includes pediatrics and understanding their feeding problems.
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: 2025
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Prashamsha_Haridass

Latesha Sharpe Harris
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | BSN Candidate
lkaa4eva@email.unc.edu

Latesha Harris is from Rocky Mount, NC and a member of the 7th cohort of Hillman Scholars. She is a member of Mentors2, the Minority Nursing Student Association, North Carolina Nurses Associations, Association of Nursing Students, Undergraduate Students Governance Council, Academy Health, American Heart Association, Southern Nursing Research Society, Sigma Alpha Pi and Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society in Nursing – Alpha Alpha Chapter. Her research interests include 1) cardiovascular health inequalities, particularly among African American communities; 2) environmental and psychosocial factors that promote and sustain cardiovascular health; and 3) intergenerational factors in cardiometabolic health. 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: Yamnia Cortés, PhD, MPH, FNP; Diane Berry, PhD, RN, FAAN
Expected date of PhD completion: 2025
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/lateshasharpe

Jordan Harrison, PhD, RN
Associate Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017
jharriso@rand.org

Jordan Harrison is an Associate Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Her work focuses on the impact of workforce inputs and policies on health care quality. Her current interests are in optimal deployment of advanced practice providers across the continuum of care and in the impact of long-term care policies on outcomes of older adults with dementia. She completed her BSN and PhD at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining RAND, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania and received additional training in health policy research as a clinical scholar in the Penn National Clinician Scholars Program.
Twitter: @JordanMHarri

Alyson Helms
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | BSN Candidate

Alyson Helms is a member of the 8th cohort of Hillman Scholars.
Research Interests: HIV/Aids and obstacles related to ART, adherence and compliance.
Mentor: TBA
Expected date of PhD completion: TBA

Diana Hernandez
University of North Carolina | BSN Candidate

Diana Hernandez is a member of the 8th cohort of Hillman Scholars.
Research Interests: designing culturally sensitive, trauma-informed interventions and developing resources for Latinx youth who experience adverse childhood experiences
Mentor: TBA
Expected date of PhD completion: 2025

Becky Fitzula Hoover, BSN
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate
rebec1@email.unc.edu

Becky Hoover 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 is currently in her clinical fellowship year, working with the adult cancer population. She obtained previous degrees from North Carolina State University; B.S. in Microbiology and a Masters of Microbial Biotechnology and Business. She has a strong background in science and plans to fuse that background with her passion for cancer survivors and look to improve their transition after treatment ends. When she has free time, she like to be outside, traveling to new places, or spending time with her kids, significant other, and family. Fun fact: She has a special gift for finding four leaf clovers!
Research Interests: cancer survivors unmet needs and health behaviors and wellness promotion.
Mentor(s): Deborah Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2023

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

Ebahi Ikharo lived in Senegal, The Gambia and Nigeria before moving to Raleigh, NC. 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 Mentors2, 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, PhD, MS, BSN, RN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
joshuaja@nursing.upenn.edu

Josh Jayasinghe, originally from England, completed his traditional BSN at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. His research interest is reproductive and sexual health services by young adults in Nepal.
Mentor(s): Anne Teitelman, PhD, FNP-BC; Connie Ulrich, PhD, RN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/josh-jayasinghe-720a2b60/

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

Nina Juntereal is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Her research interests involve the childbearing family and lactation care for vulnerable families. She is excited to be developing a project centered on Design Thinking and to apply this innovative framework to her research. She has conducted an integrative review on antenatal expression of colostrum, an intervention entailing the promotion of colostrum via hand expression during pregnancy, and is planning to conduct future projects on this phenomenon to better assist vulnerable populations in their milk supply concerns so to achieve optimal breastfeeding outcomes.
Research interests: breastfeeding, lactation, health disparities
Mentor: Diane Spatz, PhD, RN-BC

Alicia Kachmar, PhD, ABSN
Instructor, Penn Nursing
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
akachmar@nursing.upenn.edu

Alicia Kachmar is a full-time instructor at Penn Nursing and a part time RN. She 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
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 and currently completing a post-doctoral fellowship in geriatrics psychiatry at Taipei Medical University. Previously she worked as a consultant for an innovative international health care technology start-up company and 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/
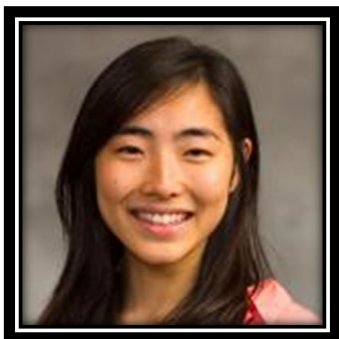
Grace Kanzawa-Lee, PhD, RN
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
gracekan@umich.edu

Grace Kanzawa-Lee's dissertation tested 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 and Cancer Center Adult Infusion units. 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
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/grace-kanzawa-lee

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

Erin Kennedy is a second-year PhD student. Her dissertation will explore the effects of clinical decision support for discharge planning on post-acute care outcomes for older adults and examine barriers to optimal post-acute care destinations using natural language processing methods. She currently assists the informatics team at Penn Medicine and has experience as a research assistant for clinical decision support and child passenger safety studies at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Erin is a predoctoral fellow at the New Courtland Center for Transitions and Health and was the recipient of the Mary Naylor Award for Undergraduate Research in 2019.
Research Interests: Nursing Informatics, Clinical Decision Support, Natural Language Processing
Mentor(s): Kathryn Bowles, PhD, RN; Catherine McDonald, PhD, MPH
Expected date of PhD completion: May 2022
LinkedIn: https://www.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
Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Nurse-Scientist, Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
University of Michigan| Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017
Robert_Knoerl@DFCI.HARVARD.EDU

Robert Knoerl is currently an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Nurse-Scientist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a PhD in Nursing Science in 2017. His research focuses on the use of integrative treatments to manage cancer treatment-related symptoms. His long-term career goal is to establish a program of research focused on developing and testing the efficacy of interventions to manage cancer treatment-related symptoms and improve quality of life in patients with cancer.
HSNI Interest Groups: Cancer
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-knoerl-09a93281/
Twitter: @robknoerl

Clare Kuisell, PhD, BSN, RN
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
claremd@umich.edu

Clare Kuisell's dissertation evaluates predictors of pain interference and opioid consumption among adolescents and young adults with sickle cell disease. Clare was a pre-doctoral trainee on the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) T32 training grant entitled "Complexity: Innovations for promoting health and safety." She is a recipient of a 2019 Hillman AERO grant and a member of Academy Health, Oncology Nursing Society, and the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses.
Research interests: pain, sickle cell disease
Mentor(s): Ellen Lavoie Smith, PhD, APRN, AOCN®, FAAN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/clare-kuisell-donohoe-bsn-rn-9217268a/
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4387-4413

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

Charity Lackey is a 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

Christine Langston
University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate
chgr@nursing.upenn.edu

Christine Langston is a first year accelerated BSN-PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania. She previously studied Biology at Northern Caribbean University and Oakwood University, where she received a BS in Biology.
Research Interests: Early childhood development and how it impacts the individual over their lifespan. Additionally, what protective factors can help children thrive.
Mentor(s): Margo Brooks Carthon, PhD and Eileen Lake, PhD
Expected date of PhD Completion: TBA

Alasia Ledford, MDiv, BSN, RN
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate
alasia@email.unc.edu

Alasia Ledford, originally of Hayesville, NC, presently resides in the quaint town of Hillsborough. In addition to her academic endeavors, Alasia works as a postpartum nurse at NC Women's Hospital. A member of the fourth cohort of Hillman Scholars, her research interests have evolved into a focus on utilizing implementation science to address inequities in maternal and child health outcomes. In addition to her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she holds previous degrees in Spanish and Divinity. Her current research projects include evaluating the implementation of a mental health innovation for Nurse-Family Partnership, investigating maternal perceptions of stress in the Galapagos, and a program evaluation of UNC Birth Partners, a nurse-initiated volunteer doula program. She serves as the secretary for the interdisciplinary Implementation Science Student Group at UNC and holds professional memberships in Sigma Theta Tau, American Nurses Association/North Carolina Nursing Association, American Public Health Association, and Academy Health.
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; Jennifer Leeman, DrPH, MDIV
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2021

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

Matthew Lee is a fourth-year PhD candidate who works at the intersection of healthcare and technology. His dissertation explores 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 training modules for healthcare professionals, 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
Mentor(s): George Demiris, PhD; Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, José Arturo Bauermeister, MPH, PhD
Expected date of PhD Completion: December 2020
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/seriousgamedev/
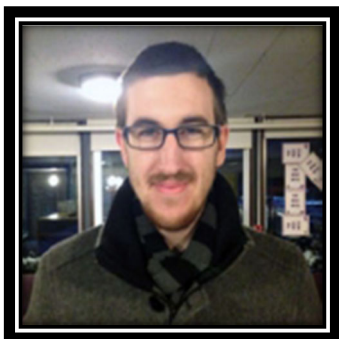
Bradley Liestenfeltz, PhD, BSN, RN
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
bliesten@umich.edu
Liestenfeltz, Bradley
Brad Liestenfeltz's dissertation will explore motivation-based messaging to increase signups for the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). He is developing promotional materials for the national DPP targeted to increase individual motivation to pursue the program. He works clinically on the U of M Adult Bone Marrow Transplant unit. He is a recipient of a 2018 Hillman AERO grant; trained in qualitative interviewing; and a member of Academy Health and the Society of Behavioral Medicine.
Research interests: patient engagement in the diabetes prevention program, health policy, nursing education
Mentor(s): Laura Saslow, PhD
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/brad-liestenfeltz-21852630

Jessica Marsack PhD, RN
Clinical Nurse Researcher, University of Michigan Hospital System
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018
marsjess@umich.edu

Jessica Marsack is a Clinical Instructor and 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 - Chapel Hill | 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
Visiting Professor of Global Engagement | University of Wyoming
Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018
kgfmiller18@gmail.com

Katie Miller (nee Finn) is a Visiting Professor of Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming (UW) in Laramie, Wyoming. She completed her BSN ('15) and PhD ('18) at the University of 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. Currently, Katie is partnering with various departments and agencies within and around the UW community to determine faculty and student interest in global engagement, develop a vision for global engagement activities within the School of Nursing, and facilitate sustainable and mutually beneficial global partnerships that promote student learning and faculty development. In addition to this work, Katie also teaches in the Public Health track of UW's online BSN-Completion program.
Research interests: Global Health, Public Health, Vulnerable Populations, Nursing Education
HSNI Interest Groups: Children, Disparities, International, Implementation and Translation

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

Leah Morgan is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, but moved to Chapel Hill at the 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

Elizabeth Allen Myer, BSN
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate
eptallen@email.unc.edu

Elizabeth Myer 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 older adults. She is the recipient of a T32 Pre-Doctoral Trainee Award, Interventions for Preventing & Managing Chronic Illness (2017-2018 NR007091-22; 2018-2019 NR007091-23). She is also a pre-doctoral trainee for the Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC) program, a pan-Canadian health services research program that aims to produce knowledge that improves elder care. Her dissertation addresses the relationship between pain and mobility/function in hospitalized older adults. She completed her clinical fellowship at UNC Hospitals on an Acute Care for the Elderly Unit, where she continues her practice. She serves as a member of UNC Hospitals Nursing Research Council and chairs the Medicine Services Research Committee. She is an ANCC board certified medical-surgical nurse (RN-BC). She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the NC Nurses Association. She enjoys playing piano and spending time with her dogs, Camden and Gracie.
Research Interests: reducing the rising incidence of health concerns associated with aging through improved care.
Mentor(s): Peggy Wilmoth, PhD, MSS, RN, FAAN
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2021

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

Monique Pardo-Montez is currently working on her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and is also a Hillman Scholar with the intention of earning a PhD in Nursing by 2024. Additionally, she has been working with Dr. Eric Hodges since June of 2018, coding observational data for his current interventional study examining dyadic communication related to infant and child feeding. Her research interests include gaining a better understanding of how the mother-infant-microbiome tirade impacts infant immunological and neurocognitive development. Ms. Pardo-Montez's long-term goal is to apply her research in the community setting to have direct, positive impacts on a local level. Her research is primarily funded through the Hillman, Mentors2, Johnston, and Covenant Scholarships. Ms. Monique Pardo-Montez is from Carrboro, North

Monique Pardo-Montez
(continued)

Carolina, and has an eight-year-old daughter. Her daughter's 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.
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: 2025

Esita Patel, PhD, RN, BSN
Postdoctoral Fellow, Health Policy and Management at
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
University of North Carolina | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
esitapatel@gmail.com

Esita Patel earned her BS in biology and nursing with highest honors and her PhD in nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a member of the second cohort of Hillman Scholars and defended her dissertation on the impact of nurse practitioner scope of practice policies on access to care on May 2019. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a part of an interdisciplinary team evaluating state policy efforts related to opioid use disorder. Her interests are broadly rooted in real-world and timely health policy and intervention evaluation, with much of her current work focusing on evaluation of interventions aimed at improving hospital-based care for patients with opioid use disorder. Throughout her doctoral studies, she worked on projects evaluating nursing workforce policies, worked as a high-risk labor and delivery nurse, and completed an AHRQ NRSA predoctoral fellowship in health services research. During her spare time in Baltimore, she enjoys volunteering as a nurse in a clinic for the uninsured, serving as the president for the Johns Hopkins Nursing Public Health Network, and exploring the Baltimore harbor promenade.
Research interests: health services research, policy evaluation,
HSNI Interest Groups: Maternal Health, Mental Health, Health services and systems research, Policy.

Kara J. Pavone, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor | Northeastern University, School of Nursing
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
k.pavone@northeastern.edu

Kara Pavone is an Assistant Professor in the Bouve College of Health Science at the Northeastern University, School of Nursing at in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Pavone received her BS in Behavioral Neuroscience from Northeastern University, as well as her BSN and PhD in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. The primary focus of Dr. Pavone's research is to address inadequate pain assessment, management and treatment in older adult patients following surgery or suffering from chronic disease. Dr. Pavone is also a Faculty Fellow in the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research at Northeastern University and a Nurse Faculty Scientist in the Munn Center for Nursing Research at the Massachusetts General Hospital.
Research Interests: Older Adults, Critical Care, Pain, Delirium, Opioids
HSNI Interest Groups: Disparities, Palliative Care, Chronic Disease, Aging

Victoria Peterman, ABSN, BA
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | 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

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

Anthony Scarpone-Lambert is an incoming senior at the University of Pennsylvania who has been a part of the Hillman Scholars Program since Fall 2019. He is the Co-Founder of Text-911, which is an advocacy startup nonprofit dedicated to implementing emergency text capabilities in all US counties. Additionally, Anthony is the Executive Vice President of the Class of 2021 at Penn. His prospective area of research involves digital health and aging in place. Specifically, Anthony hopes to better understand how health technologies are viewed by different stakeholders, and the impact such technologies may have on the future of aging in place. In his future, Anthony hopes to find the intersection between entrepreneurship, research, and health tech. Anthony is passionate about innovation in nursing and is truly exciting to a part of this community of innovative scholars.
Research Interests: Digital health, entrepreneurship, aging in place, LGBTQ+ population
Mentor(s): Jose Bauermeister, PhD, MPH; Therese Richmond, PhD
Expected date of BSN Completion: May 2021
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/anthony-scarpone-lambert-669052138/ -
Personal Website: www.anthonyscarpone-lambert.com

Patrina Sexton Topper, PhD, ABSN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
sextonp@nursing.upenn.edu

Patrina Sexton Topper is a fourth-year PhD student. Her dissertation will explore family formation by way of clinical assistance among coupled sexual minority women. She is interested in healthcare decision making at the beginning and end-of-life, particularly among historically marginalized populations and their families. In addition, she has worked to develop adaptations to relationship timeline methods that enable couple-level data elicitation and analysis. She is a research assistant for the Program on

Patrina Sexton Topper
(continued)

Sexuality Technology and Action Research (PSTAR) and has served as a reviewer for the Journal of Nursing Doctoral Student Scholarship.
Research Interests: sexual and gender minority health, assisted reproductive technologies, health equity, healthcare decision making, bioethics
Mentor(s): José A. Bauermeister, MPH, PhD; Dalmacio Dennis Flores, PhD, ACRN
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrinasexton/

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

Laura Sinko is a child and adolescent mental health nurse by training, but currently practices as a sexual assault nurse examiner in Philadelphia. Her research focus is on gender-based violence healing and recovery across the lifespan. She has an expertise in narrative and visual qualitative methodologies, and is currently conducting a randomized waitlist control trial evaluating the use of Photo-elicitation and Reflective Listening (PEARL) in promoting healing engagement in survivors of gender-based violence. Laura looks at recovery from many angles and is also involved in research projects evaluating the impact of sexual violence on the brain using functional near infrared spectroscopy technology as well as the implications of COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders on violence perpetration and help-seeking. Laura currently serves as the Director of Research and Evaluation at Our Wave, an online platform for survivors of sexual violence to anonymously tell their stories as well as the Policy Director at SAFER Campus, a non-profit organization that empowers university student movements to combat sexual violence.
Research interests: trauma recovery, gender-based violence, trauma-informed care
HSNI Interest Groups: Mental Health, Policy, Implementation and Translation
Research Website: https://www.findingthestrengthtoheal.com/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-sinko-118a41b4

Asa Smith, PhD, BSN, RN
T32 Postdoctoral Fellow University of Indiana
University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
smiasa@umich.edu

Asa Smith's dissertation describes and models the predictors of sexual function and satisfaction in a cohort of men and women after a myocardial infarction. He also conducts qualitive phenomenological work for sexual recovery among patients with prostate cancer. He works clinically on a Michigan Medicine acute care adult internal medicine unit, and is also receiving training in sexual counseling and nurse education. He is a postdoctoral fellows with the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) T32 entitled "Advanced Training in Self-Management Interventions for Serious Chronic Conditions" in Indianapolis. He and is a member of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, and Academy Health.
Research interests: sexual health in patients post myocardial infarction
Mentor(s): Debra L. Barton, RN, PhD, AOCN, FAAN
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/asa-smith-50177192

Shelby Smith
University of North Carolina - 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: 2025
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Shelby_Smith34

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

Kelly Tan of Cary, North Carolina, is a 4th year PhD student and member of UNC's 3rd cohort of Hillman Scholars. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a minor in Cognitive Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2016. Kelly brings to the program four years of experience as a research assistant in the Vironomics Core at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is an experienced hematology oncology nurse who currently practices at Duke University Hospital. As the PI of an F31, Kelly's research interest includes understanding the biopsychosocial mechanisms in stress responses. Her current dissertation project is a longitudinal study of informal caregivers of adult patients receiving an allogeneic bone marrow transplant.
Research Interests: chronic stress responses, positive psychology, biopsychosocial mechanisms
HSNI Interest Groups: Cancer, Aging, Implementation and Translation
Mentor(s): Deborah Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN
Expected date of PhD Completion: 2021

Lauren Turner (nee Starr), PhD, ABSN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
laurencturner@gmail.com

Lauren Turner'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

Amanda Shea Watson
University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate
awat@nursing.upenn.edu

Amanda Watson is a first-year BSN-PhD student. She works as a student nurse implementer for a study in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at Penn.
Research Interests: Qualitative research on the experience of older adults and their families in the advanced care planning stage and how their experiences differ.
Mentor(s): Drs. Salimah Meghani and Sarah Kagan
Expected date of PhD Completion: TBA

Guy Weissinger, PhD, ABSN
Assistant Professor | Villanova University
University of Pennsylvania| Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019
gmw46@drexel.edu

Guy Weissinger's research focuses on healthcare for people experiencing mental illness through a mixed methods, person-centered approach. His dissertation focused on non-psychiatric hospital care for patients with psychotic disorders and his postdoctoral research is on system level suicide prevention. Clinical experience as a therapist and nurse inform his approach to understand, and eventually address, the health disparities associated with 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, PhD, RN
University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2020
whitc@nursing.upenn.edu

Clare Whitney is a recent PhD graduate. Her dissertation, entitled Moralizing Substance Use in Maternal-child Symbiosis: An Emergent Fit Dimensional Analysis, explores 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 also recently completed a Master in Bioethics and certificates in Clinical Conflict Management, Teaching Nursing Excellence, and College and University Teaching.
Research Interests: bioethics, reproductive health, mental health, substance use, qualitative methods

Sandra Garcia Zaragoza, BSN
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill | PhD Candidate
sandra97@email.unc.edu

Sandra Zaragoza 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: 2024

Stefanie Zavodny Jackson, PhD, RN
Lecturer and Simulation Instructor, Penn Nursing
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 a lecturer and simulation instructor at Penn Nursing, and works at The Melmark School, a school and residential treatment facility for children and adults with autism.
Research Interests: mental health, maternal health, child development, family research
HSNI Interest Groups: Children, Maternal Health, Mental Health, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/stefanie-zavodny-jackson