

Student Public Health Practice Awardees

2018 AWARDS (INAUGURAL)

Excellence in U.S. Public Health Practice



Raimee Eck

Partner Organization: Maryland Public Health Association

Raimee Eck has been involved with the Maryland Public Health Association's Executive Board during her time as a PhD student, most recently as President. Her overarching goal for this role is to elevate MdPHA's effectiveness on public health policy reform, expand capacity through strategic partnerships, and boost name recognition as the go-to for public health expertise. The ultimate vision is to make MdPHA the overarching umbrella that links public health initiatives in the state, effectively developing a model that other state-level public health associations could adopt.

Recently, through partnership with Healthcare for All, MdPHA advocated for the Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission to limit the assaults on the Affordable Care Act at the state level. MdPHA also provides a unifying voice by hosting public health advocacy nights, bringing together diverse stakeholders – legislators, public health researchers, and the general public – to foster evidence-based decision making. MdPHA also supported the fracking ban, a Styrofoam ban at the state and local levels, the Health in All Policies Task Force, and other cross-cutting issues. This year for the first time MdPHA was named a stakeholder on a task force to study and make recommendations on alcohol policies to the legislature.

Raimee's experiences with MdPHA have focused and solidified her commitment to public health, complemented her research exploring alcohol policies in the US and low- and middle-income countries around the world, and demonstrated the vast potential of strategically combining research, advocacy, and community to protect our health.



Margaret Hannah

Project Title: HIV Screening in Washington, DC

Partner Organization: One Tent Health

One Tent Health is a start-up NGO that is focused on HIV testing and prevention in the DC area. What makes OTH unique is the business model that has been employed. OTH screens at 1/3 the

price of the market average per positive screen. Additionally, they offer linkage to care at their partner organization, Whitman Walker Health, and PrEP navigation.

Washington, DC's HIV+ rate is 1.9%, nearly twice the WHO threshold for an epidemic. Mackenzie Copley and David Schaffer recruited Margaret Hannah into their start-up NGO as the head of Volunteer and Training Services. By the time Margaret transitioned into her new role as Research Chair, OTH had recruited Georgetown, Howard, and George Washington University students in order to create a fleet of fully trained volunteers. Additionally, self-sustaining and independent Student Advisory Boards were set up in order to expand OTH outreach across campuses and districts in DC. In addition to volunteer training, Margaret provided the volunteers with special training on working with survivors of sexual assault and post-test counseling-which is largely lacking from modern day rapid HIV testing training. One Tent Health, in addition to focusing on providing clients with full testing counseling (including pre and posttest counseling), is also partnered with local DC organizations in order to link patients to care and provide immediate transportation to receive a confirmatory test at a partner location.

Excellence in International Public Health Practice



Radha Rajan

Project Title: Defining & Measuring Engagement in Digital Behavior Change Interventions: Application to the Skata Mobile App in Indonesia

Partner Organization: The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, Indonesia

Radha Rajan's project, "Defining and Measuring Engagement with Digital Behavior Change Interventions" included usability testing and analysis of usage data from the Skata mobile application for family planning in Indonesia. Radha worked with a Jakarta-based digital development company to design a dashboard for collection of real-time app usage data. She developed a new scale for evaluation of digital health engagement, called the Extended Engagement Index, and applied it to the analysis of usage data from over 15,000 unique Skata users. In addition, she led qualitative research to collect user experiences with Skata, conducting 65 interviews across three locations in the course of four months. Radha's insights from the quantitative and qualitative data analysis guided refinement of the Skata app, including an aesthetic and functional redesign, elimination of unengaging app features, hiring of new program staff, and increased use of social media. Since its launch in 2016, the Skata app has been downloaded over 49,000 times and the content has been accessed online over 250,000 times. It is available through the Google Play and iOS App stores, as well as at www.skata.info. The Skata app is part of a larger Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded program called MyChoice, for which the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs led family planning demand-generation activities. The program was a proof-of-concept for revitalizing Indonesia's national family planning program.



Wai Jia Tam

Partner Organization: Kitesong Global

Twelve years ago, Wai Jia's visit to a children's home in Nepal changed her life and led her to publish a picture book called Kitesong that raised more than \$100,000 for a permanent home for the children. Through philanthropy and advocacy, her subsequent 3 picture books continue to promote social justice for underprivileged women and children. Her dream to increase Kitesong's impact was constrained in Singapore, but took off after an Internship with IRIS Global in California. Through the mentorship she received at Johns Hopkins, she pursued her dream of setting up Kitesong Global as an international social venture. Using the power of narrative through 4 picture books, Kitesong Global's mission is to create opportunities that catalyze social change and civic engagement to empower underserved women and children. Its multiplicative impact has been increased through conversion of the books into videos, creating contextualized curricula, and translation into 5 languages. This has been made possible by a 15-member volunteer base from 4 countries. Kitesong Global is partnering with IRIS Global, in Brazil and Mozambique; Gracelife Network in Baltimore, reaching at-risk children; FindingBalance, through their eating disorder recovery programs; and Kennedy Krieger, for their parent empowerment programs. The MPH coursework in leadership and evaluation, exposure to networks in business, creative media and entrepreneurship here, and mentorship of dedicated faculty helped Wai Jia take Kitesong from a local to global level. She intends to lead Kitesong Global full-time, while serving in an LMIC setting, to continue improving equity for women and children around the world.

Excellence in Baltimore Public Health Practice



Noa Krawczyk

Project Title: Project Connections Buprenorphine Program
Partner Organization: Behavioral Health Leadership Institute (BHLI)

As the Project/Research Associate for the Behavioral Health Leadership Institute, a Baltimore-based non-for profit organization, Noa Krawczyk has spent two years working with the Project Connections Buprenorphine Program, a low-threshold opioid treatment model that delivers medication and high-quality care to vulnerable patients who may not have access to traditional health services. Noa's role has involved a range of activities that support the design, execution and evaluation of this treatment model. This includes efforts to monitor outcomes of the program, such as assembling reports for the organization and its funders and preparing manuscripts/presentations that disseminate the model to others in the field. She has worked to implement an electronic health record system that serves both clinical and research purposes, including training clinical staff to use it and incorporating feedback to improve its usability. Noa has also been involved in the development of a new mobile site that delivers treatment to persons recently released from the Baltimore Jail who are at high risk of overdose and other negative outcomes. This included planning and delivering a training on behavioral

health to Correctional Staff, meeting with Management to plan program protocols, and collaborating with research partners to inform a long-term evaluation of this model that is both methodologically rigorous and upholds the values of this program. This work has greatly impacted Noa's educational and professional development, and has furthered her interest in bridging the gap between research and practice to implement the most effective practices that address the health needs of the public.



Anja Fries & Monica Guerrero Vazquez

Project Title: Addressing Health Disparities through Community Engagement and Advocacy

Partner Organization: Centro SOL

Anja Fries & Monica Guerrero Vazquez's project "Addressing Health Disparities through Community Engagement and Advocacy" focuses on pressing issues affecting the local Latinx community. Anja and Monica worked closely with Centro SOL (the Center for Salud/Health and Opportunities for Latinos) and its partner organizations to identify those issues and to design a comprehensive approach through community participation and institutional involvement summarized in four actions. They planned and coordinated an expert panel on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the implications of rescinding the program for health, healthcare, and human rights for immigrants. Anja and Monica designed a peer support curriculum as their practicum project to tackle mental health issues among undocumented immigrants in Baltimore. They designed and coordinated an emergency response to inform and to prevent suicide through community conversations facilitated by therapists and social workers. Finally, Anja and Monica organized the first "Public Health Day for Immigrant and Refugee Youth" to create awareness about the diversity of the city of Baltimore among their graduate cohort, and to expose immigrant and refugee youth to college life, career paths, and opportunities at Johns Hopkins. By leveraging the opportunity of being Hopkins fellows, the project allowed them to address issues affecting the Latinx immigrant community at different levels: the community, the family and the individual. It is their goal to continue this work identifying relevant and timely solutions to the challenges individuals face with the healthcare system, and improving the quality of life for our diverse Baltimore community.