

PAUL AMBROSE
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM



2011 Scholars' Project Descriptions



Adrian Ambrose

Institute: John A. Burns School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I am passionate about addressing the social determinants of health in vulnerable minority and underserved communities through synergistic individual empowerment and institutional supports. After the conference, I hope to develop a complementary curriculum for my medical school that centers on social awareness and health activism.



Shamsul Arif

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I wish to implement an Asthma Education Program in Hartford, Connecticut. The goal of the project would be to educate asthma patients or their families, relatives and caregivers on prevention of indoor asthma triggers, the avoidance of outdoor triggers, proper use of inhalational devices, and the importance of continuous management and oral care for asthmatic patients.



Ashanta Brady

Institute: Howard University

Discipline: Pharmacy

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As a Paul Ambrose Scholar my project will provide medication therapy management services at a preferred discount pharmacy and possible mobile clinic located in Washington D.C. targeting patients that have a mental illness. My goal is to raise awareness about optimizing psychopharmacotherapy management.



Deborah Bryant

Institute: Yale University
Discipline: Nursing
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For my PASP project, I plan to develop a Diabetes Day at HAVEN free clinic, neighborhood health fairs and the local soup kitchens. The goal of Diabetes Day is to screen for diabetes and encourage uncontrolled diabetic patients to re-enter care through education and offering a number of preventive and screening services, including foot exams, immunizations, depression screens, A1c, nutrition consultation, eye exams, medication review and smoking cessation.



Magdala Chery

Institute: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine
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My PASP project is to hold an interactive day workshop for adolescent females in Camden, NJ entitled, "Love Starts with Understanding Me". Through this project I hope to address dating violence, outline the components of healthy relationships, and assist the girls in valuing who they are as maturing young women in society. The goal of this workshop is to emphasize their potential in achieving their dreams and to accentuate the importance of loving themselves first and foremost.



Chun Pae Cho

Institute: New York University College of Dentistry
Discipline: Dentistry
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My project is designed to educate children of low socio-economic groups about association between obesity and periodontal disease and the importance of proper nutrition. I want to also perform a pilot study on this population to develop better screening tools for preventive oral health.



Cherissa Chong

Institute: University of Pennsylvania

Discipline: Dentistry

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For my PASP project I plan on targeting the kids who are at greatest need for dental care at the Eliza Shirley women and children's shelter. I will be implementing monthly screenings and referring these kids to receive care at the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM). After each screening visit parents will be educated on their child's oral hygiene and ways to maintain their child's oral health.



Christian Dean

Institute: Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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During my first year of medical school in Texas I started a health screening event at a homeless shelter. I am looking to expand this program by creating a program to educate the social workers and case managers about mental illness emergencies and how best to refer these folks.



Kahlil Demonbreun

Institute: Medical University of South Carolina

Discipline: Nursing

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My PASP project relates to a policy change in prescribing privileges of health care providers in this state. This change will allow treating partners of patients diagnosed with an STD without a physical exam or consultation visit.



Meredith Freeman

Institute: Butler University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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For my PASP project I plan to create an HPV educational program for young high school girls in Indianapolis public schools. My project goals of educating young women include reductions in STD transmission and cervical cancer rates. I also hope to empower the young women so they seek ownership of personal health and lessen the stigma of seeking care for sexual related health concerns.



Andrew Gray

Institute: Baylor College of Medicine

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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For my PASP project, I plan to survey a community of recovering gay male crystal methamphetamine addicts about their specific sexual behaviors before, during, and after their addiction. I also plan to test the community for Hepatitis C and educate them about the specific risks and treatment plans for this disease. Finally, I want to create a pamphlet for health care providers to distribute to patients who are engaging in certain sexual practices which pose particular risk of Hepatitis C transmission.



Joshua Gray

Institute: Medical University of South Carolina

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I will be using the micro-grant from PASP to expand the services available to our diabetic patient population and further aid in the overall coordination in their care at the C.A.R.E.S. Clinic.



Zain Hasan

Institute: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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The Muslim women in Erie, PA along the entire Great Lake brim that dress conservatively with a headscarf do not realize that they are very deficient in Vitamin D. My project involves gathering up-to-date information on Vitamin D benefits, holding a seminar with handouts and links and then receiving feedback on the presentation. After this I plan to disseminate the information to other Religious Organizations in the area and along the Great Lakes.



Corey Hayes

Institute: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Discipline: Pharmacy

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With the micro grant, I plan to create a Medicare Planning/Brown Bag Special Clinic at the UAMS Institute on Aging and eventually across the state to educate seniors about Medicare plans available and help them in choosing the best plan for their needs. It would also be an opportunity for seniors to bring all their prescription medications, herbal supplements, and over-the-counter drugs so that pharmacists and pharmacy students can identify and resolve any adverse drug effects and interactions.



LoAnn Heuring

Institute: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I coordinate monthly “Patient Education Sessions,” which are hour-long presentations developed by a team of medical students. I will improve this project by collaborating with experts from the “University Hospital’s Health Literacy Action Committee” to transform these presentations into interactive, hands-on workshops. My goal is to cultivate the development of future physicians equipped to communicate clearly and effectively with patients of varying literacy levels and from diverse backgrounds. As a result, medical students will do more than provide health information; they will also empower their patients with literacy skills necessary to become active participants in their healthcare. Finally, I aim to use this model to develop a “Health Literacy Module” so that “Patient Education Sessions” may be replicated in other student-run clinics throughout the country.



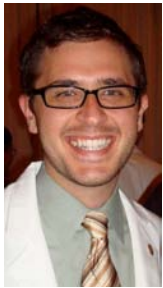
Ashley Janis

Institute: University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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With the grant I would like to initiate a low-cost prenatal vitamin program in the hospital's Women's Center. This would be implemented to aid the women already utilizing the discounted services and patient counseling is central to the plan. In cooperation with the outpatient pharmacy, I hope to provide a means to enhance prenatal care to improve outcomes for both moms and newborns.



Robert Kelly

Institute: Drexel University College of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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My PASP project is related to Adolescent Medicine, as it is in conjunction with Healing Hurt People, a community-focused, hospital-based program in Philadelphia designed to reduce re-injury and retaliation among youth ages 8-30. Clients are enrolled after being admitted to the ED following an intentional-injury trauma (gunshot, stab/assault wound). Interventions of the program include providing connection to resources such as emotional support, mentoring, school-related support, job-training/placement and parenting education and support. My project would focus on measuring the efficacy and reproducibility of the intervention by analyzing pre- and post-intervention measures, specifically in the pediatric and adolescent population.



Erika Kinzer

Institute: Pacific Northwest University

Discipline: Osteopathic

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With the help of some similarly minded classmates, I began the "Health, Leading by Example" campaign at my school. This project centered on peer education of basic nutritional concepts and more progressive information on agricultural issues and sustainability. A public viewing of "Food, Inc.", community gardens and networking with local public health programs all began from this project. With my micro grant I wish to continue this program at Pacific Northwest University and form stronger relationships with the community.



Jennifer Kroll

Institute: A.T. Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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The goal of my project is to encourage elderly members of the Kirksville community to adopt a more active lifestyle. This program will center on student volunteers from KCOM leading elderly participants in exercise sessions and discussion of preventative health care strategies. With the help from a student partner, participants will be able to set personal wellness goals and discover ways to improve their fitness level.



James Lesniak

Institute: Jefferson College of Health Sciences

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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My PASP project will seek to identify environmental and social barriers to meeting treatment goals for patients with a history of hospitalization for psychiatric conditions. I hope to see an outcome of enhancing continuity of care and improved compliance with medical management.



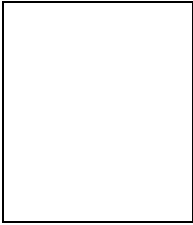
Vinvia Leung

Institute: Midwestern University-Chicago College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I plan to implement a mobile diabetes and hypertension education program led primarily by student health professionals. Each mobile health session will consist of three segments: education on diabetes and hypertension, health screenings and post-testing consultation. A mobile health program will increase awareness of these chronic diseases and empower people with knowledge to improve their quality of life.



Saria Lofton

Institute: Rush University

Discipline: Nursing

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My project will focus on my newest passion in environmental health. I intend to address poor families' eating habits with an environmental health, experiential-based education program on sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and waste reduction.



Sapna Lohiya

Institute: University of California, Los Angeles

Discipline: Dentistry

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For my PASP project, I plan to provide oral hygiene instruction to elementary school students and their parents. I hope to achieve this goal by designing posters, communicating with school nurses, and providing classrooms with toothbrushes, toothpastes, and educational pamphlets.



Mary Lundgren

Institute: Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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Although out of sight and out of mind to many, the medical concerns of the homeless have not been ignored at one community clinic in Chicago. The homeless shelter associated with the clinic requires screening for tuberculosis to receive services. This offers a prime opportunity to educate patients. For my PASP project, I want to provide specific medical information about tuberculosis to these patients as they wait to be seen by a physician. Providing tuberculosis education to this population will improve their individual health condition as well as overall community health.



Stanley Marlowe

Institute: Lincoln Memorial University

Discipline: Osteopathic University

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My proposed project is intended to educate patients on common asthma triggers and prevention using a pamphlet/booklet with vocabulary understandable to a 5th grade student. My focus will be on triggers more common to Appalachia; for instance coal heating, smoking, and high pollen counts.



Kabir Matharu

Institute: University of California, Davis

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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The micro grant will support a group I newly founded named, “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Psych-Ed Support.” It is a health promotion service for Sacramento County patients who wish to learn more about sexual health, practices, and other concerns including depression, cancer screening, and hormonal therapy. I intend to serve a diverse host of patients, irrespective of background, as a physician.



Katie McElroy

Institute: University of Maryland School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

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My project will target low-income, high-risk pregnant and postpartum women in Baltimore City that currently receive home visits from health department nurses. I would like to develop educational materials pertaining to the dangers of environmental exposures during pregnancy, along with simple ways to protect the pregnant woman and her fetus. I also hope to hold a “Baby Bottle Exchange” during which families can trade old, toxic bottles for newer ones that do not contain bisphenol A (BPA). Although Maryland has banned the sale of baby bottles that contain BPA, many of these toxic bottles are still in use, especially in low-income households.



Julie McNeish

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

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For my PASP project I plan on implementing a program for Hartford, a neighboring city, which teaches inter-generational education about heart health and oral health. Through this project, I hope to embrace non-traditional families that make a large portion of this urban community, as well as find a better way to target the lack of health awareness that exists. I will be approaching my project with an inter-disciplinary team that includes medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy students.



Birdie Nguyen

Institute: University of Maryland, Baltimore

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I love working with kids so for my PASP project I plan to teach food and nutrition to school age children through mini health fairs. Where I live in downtown Baltimore, corner stores and fast food restaurants replace supermarkets – selling meals high in sugar, salt, and fats. Poor nutrition means higher rates of heart diseases, diabetes, and obesity. The goal is to reach out to school age children and pursue communication strategies with them at a critical age.



Diane Ogborn

Institute: University of Utah College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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For my community-based health education project for the PASP, I will address birth control options and costs to the undocumented or working poor and the under-18 populations in Utah County, UT where I live. I will gather information about contraceptive methods, costs, co-pays, and places of access. I will create a bilingual pamphlet with simple graphics explaining the options, costs, and consequences of birth control. I will provide this information to my target audience through local WIC offices and a county health fair.



Benjamin Olmedo

Institute: Yale School of Medicine

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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My PASP project includes working with various organizations to establish a culturally based sex education class with a focus on reducing risk behaviors as well as increasing STI screening and treatment in minority adolescents and young adults with immigrant backgrounds.



Laura Palombi

Institute: University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy – Duluth

Discipline: Pharmacy

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For my PASP project I have started working with Carlton County public health officials to design a project that would allow College of Pharmacy students to plan and participate in Operation Community Connect, a one-day event that makes community resources of all types available to the homeless that live in rural Carlton County. This event strives to include direct service engagement in the areas of medical screening, housing assistance, energy assistance, employment services, family services, benefit enrollment, counseling for chemical dependency and mental health, and personal care services.



Erin Philpott

Institute: Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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My project goal is to implement an educational program geared toward lifestyle modifications including establishing a healthier diet and a regular exercise routine for the Latino population with Type II Diabetes residing in Lakewood, CO. I intend to examine the obstacles that this community currently faces with regard to enjoying a healthy diet and participating in regular exercise.



Marc Polacco

Institute: University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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For my PASP project, I will be coordinating a health and nutrition program at several local elementary schools. Once a week, volunteers will teach a lesson at a school with an emphasis placed on active participation. My goal is not only to teach children about health and nutrition, but also to provide them with the tools to implement the principles presented.



Maryam Safaee

Institute: University of Utah School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I will create a presentation kit to educate high school students about the health risks arising from excessive UV light exposure, particularly from tanning beds. I recently started to give presentations to high school students in my community, and with gained insight from the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, I hope to reach many more throughout my state.



Jarrett Schanzer

Institute: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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The overall goal of my project entitled, “Learning how to Prevent Childhood-Obesity in Camden County (and beyond)”, is to design a research project that ultimately will create a fun and interactive learning experience for kids (catered directly to their learning style-i.e. auditory/visual/kinesthetic). Ultimately, I hope to incorporate the final product into the health curriculum in our schools.



Neelam Shah

Institute: Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

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I plan on implementing a project that will integrate the OB/GYN and dental departments at a local community health center. Through this project I hope to educate pregnant woman and their children on the importance of oral health, reverse the misconception of the safety of dental care during pregnancy, and encourage mothers to seek treatment for periodontal disease and dental caries for themselves and their children.



Vanessa Solomon

Institute: Western University of Health Sciences – COMP

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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My proposed project focuses on hypertensive, diabetic, and pre-diabetic patients. I will be working with patients at the Western University Diabetes Institute to determine the possible beneficial effect of either a customized meal and activity plan or motivational interviewing to gain patient buy-in into healthier lifestyle change or both on health outcomes such as HbA1c and blood pressure.



Benjamin Stacy

Institute: Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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The prevention education project I will develop is based on mental health and its importance with prevention of cardiovascular disease. The goal will be to engage the community with a survey to establish the community's interest in mental health as it relates to their cardiovascular disease. Then I plan on formulating an informative handout about the benefits of mental health counseling via health professions in the area and improve the awareness of access to those professionals that are available. The idea behind the project: "Developing a sound mind in order to strengthen your heart for tomorrow's challenges."



Jessica Stein

Institute: New York Institute of Technology

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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For my PASP project I would like to organize interactive educational sessions for medical students on competency issues. These sessions would teach students how to work with interpreters, different religions and cultures as well as inform them of which diseases are more prevalent in certain populations. Other sessions would include information about healthcare issues for those with physical and developmental disabilities, the geriatric population and the LBGT community. They are meant to educate future health care professionals with the goal to improve the health and quality of health services.



Kayla Stinson

Institute: University of Louisville

Discipline: Nursing

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The program I will implement will involve teaching senior citizens how to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease through proper nutrition, exercise, and smoking cessation. I will hold personalized sessions with each older adult to help them develop a specific plan of action. Through this activity I hope to increase the wellness of this population.



Gabriel Suarez

Institute: Florida International University

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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My PASP project will target obesity and diabetes in the uninsured Latino population for both children and adults of Hialeah Garden. This project will develop an interprofessional health education program that will promote nutrition, exercise, and most importantly, health literacy in a bilingual setting. It will be innovative in that the program will focus on teaching small, realistic and easily adaptable changes in lifestyles that can promote a large difference in health.



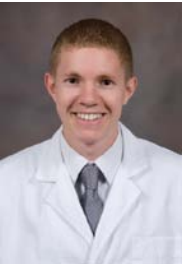
Amy Turner

Institute: Emory University Physician Assistant Program

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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For my PASP project, I have decided to address the discrepancy between the elevated prevalence of depression and lack of depression screening in primary care. The focus of my intervention will be three-fold: 1) to educate patients about depression, 2) to educate all members of the healthcare team about the importance of depression screening, and 3) to provide patients and the healthcare team with community resources for managing depression.



Daniel Walsh

Institute: Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

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As a participant in the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program I will work to design a pilot study to track patient “activation” within the clinic at my dental school with plans to expand this model to public health clinics. Determining a patient’s “activation level” will allow oral health clinicians to track levels of awareness and participation in healthy behaviors, allowing for the development of a customized plan to educate and encourage each patient. My hope is that we can find a way to effectively mobilize patients to take charge of their health by self-management of factors that can be controlled and changed to positively modify health status and decrease health services utilization for preventable conditions.



Xiaorong Wang

Institute: University of Louisville, School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

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My project is to improve the care of chronic diseases in Metro Louisville, Kentucky, to help chronically ill individuals to live well and be healthy. I will partner with Living Well Workshops (LWW) of University of Louisville (UofL) Family and Geriatric Medicine, part of UofL Academic Chronic Care Collaborative (ACCC). The ACCC is a multi-disciplinary healthcare collaboration of UofL, which partners with the Association of American Medical Colleges, and Improving Chronic Illness Care (ICIC), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, adopts Dr. Ed Wagner’s Chronic Care Model to improve the care of chronic diseases in Metro Louisville community



Abby Willaert

Institute: Augsburg College

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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For my PASP project, I want to develop and implement a program which targets overweight and obese women planning to become pregnant. The goal of this program is twofold: to educate this population about their increased risk of complications during pregnancy and to offer various tools to help them work towards a healthier weight.