



NHS Student Newsletter

Spring 2023

Dear NHS Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

We hope that you had a good Spring semester! In this edition of our newsletter, we have a special feature on Dr. Mary Beth Weber, who will be taking over the role of co-DGS from Dr. Stein in July. Many thanks to Dr. Stein for his outstanding support during his time as co-DGS and best wishes to Dr. Weber in this new role.

In Fall 2023, we will welcome a new NHS cohort: Jenna Feeley, Mansura Kharnam, Leandra Lacayo, Zhongyu Li, Gahyun (“Gahyun” or “Josephine”) Lim, and Selin Sergin. Congratulations to first-years for nearing the end of the academic year and best wishes as you prepare for your comprehensive exam!

Finally, we have a special message from Priya, who despite current medical issues continues to have a positive outlook and encourages us to rest and be there for our loved ones. Check out some very cool pictures from her!

As always, please feel free to email us about your accomplishments and any feedback about the newsletter! We hope you have a relaxing summer!

Cheers,
Wilhemina and Lan

NHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Xinyu (Jocelyn) Zhu, 2nd year

Jocelyn had an abstract accepted to ASN NUTRITION 2023:

Xinyu Zhu, Hailey R. Moore, Jasmine H. Kaidbey, Leyi Kang, Janae T. Kuttamperoor, Natalie Vallone, Mariana Fagundes Grilo, Fran R. Cogen, Loretta DiPietro, Angelo Elmi, Michael I. Goran, Randi Streisand, and Allison C. Sylvetsky. Effects of low-calorie sweetened beverage restriction on glycemic variability in youth with type 1 diabetes.

Lan Tran, 2nd year

Lan had recently published papers with Dr Young and Dr Ramakrishnan **Tran, L.M**, Nguyen, P.H., Young, M.F., Ramakrishnan, U., Alderman, H. (2023). Home environment and nutritional status mitigate the wealth gap in child development: a longitudinal study in Vietnam. BMC Public Health.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-15156-2>.

Young, M.F., Nguyen, P.H., **Tran, L.M**, Khuong, L.Q., Hendrix, S., Martorell, R., Ramakrishnan, U. (2023) Maternal preconception BMI and gestational weight gain are associated with weight retention and maternal and child body fat at 6-7y postpartum in the PRECONCEPT cohort. Frontier in Nutrition.

Young, M.F., Nguyen, P.H., **Tran, L.M**, Khuong, L.Q., Martorell, R., Ramakrishnan, U. (2023) Long-term association between maternal preconception hemoglobin concentration, anemia, and child health and development in Vietnam. The Journal of Nutrition. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjnut.2023.03.015>

Young, M.F., Nguyen, P.H., **Tran, L.M**, Khuong, L.Q., Tandom, S., Martorell, R., Ramakrishnan, U. (2023) Maternal hemoglobin concentrations across pregnancy and child health and development from birth through 6-7 years. Frontiers in Nutrition. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2023.1114101>

Wilhemina Quarpong, 3rd year

Wilhemina had a paper published recently:

Quarpong, W., Wakoli, S., Oiyee, S., & Williams, A. M. (2023). Interpreting alignment to the EAT-Lancet diet using dietary intakes of lactating mothers in rural Western Kenya. Maternal & Child Nutrition, e13512.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13512>

Melissa Chapnick, 3rd year

Melissa received the Nutrition & Health Sciences Program Outstanding Student Mentor Award and Livingston Fellowship Award. She also had a paper published:

Gyimah EA, Nicholas JL, Waters WF, Gallegos-Riofrío CA, **Chapnick M**, Blackmore I, Douglas KE, Iannotti LL. Ultra-processed foods in a rural Ecuadorian community: associations with child anthropometry and bone maturation. Br J Nutr. 2023 Mar 13:1-46. doi: [10.1017/S0007114523000624](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007114523000624). PMID: [36912073](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36912073/).

Euisun (Irene) Pyo, 4th year

Irene recently published a paper with Dr. Welsh, Dr. Vos, Helaina, and Lucia:

Welsh, J. A., **Pyo, E.**, Huneault, H., Gonzalez Ramirez, L., Alazraki, A., Alli, R., Dunbar, S. B., Khanna, G., Knight-Scott, J., Pimentel, A., Reed, B., Rodney-Somersall, C., Santoro, N., Umpierrez, G., & Vos, M. B. (2023). Study protocol for a randomized, controlled trial using a novel, family-centered diet treatment to prevent NAFLD in Hispanic children. *Contemporary clinical trials*, 129, 107170. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cct.2023.107170>

Yara Beyh, 4th year

Yara had two paper publications and got an abstract accepted for the ADA 83rd Scientific Session happening in June:

Narayan, K.M.V., Varghese, J.S., **Beyh, Y.S.** et al. A Strategic Research Framework for Defeating Diabetes in India: A 21st-Century Agenda. *J Indian Inst Sci* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41745-022-00354-5>

Melissa F. Young, Jiangada Ou, Minh-Cam Duong, Hanqi Luo, **Yara S. Beyh**, Jiawei Meng, Alison D. Gernand, Daniel E. Roth, Parminder S. Suchdev (2022). "Assessment of vitamin D status in settings of inflammation: biomarkers reflecting inflammation and nutritional determinants of anemia (BRINDA) project." <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajcnut.2022.10.018>

Accepted abstract for poster presentation at the ADA 83rd Scientific Session (June 2023): Beyh et al. (2023). Association between adipokines and glycemia in children under age 8: the PROGRESS cohort of Mexico.

Brigitte Pfluger, 4th year

Brigitte was awarded a 2023 fellowship from the Global Rice Research Foundation and co-authored the following paper:

Hill EB, Baxter BA, **Pfluger B**, Slaughter CK, Beale M, Smith HV, Stromberg SS, Tipton M, Ibrahim H, Rao S, Leach H. Plasma, Urine, and Stool Metabolites in Response to Dietary Rice Bran and Navy Bean Supplementation in Adults at High-Risk for Colorectal Cancer. *Frontiers in Gastroenterology*.;2:5. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgstr.2023.1087056>

Sonia Tandon, 5th year

Sonia was awarded the Donald B McCormick Award for Research in Nutrition for 2022-2023.

ROTATION OPPORTUNITIES

(AGGREGATED HERE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEARCH THROUGH HUNDREDS OF ARCHIVED EMAILS)

Understanding Food Insecurity in Atlanta: Creating a Food Systems Map and Exploring How Individuals Living with Food Insecurity Interact with the Food Environment

Drs. Karen Siegel, Elizabeth Rhodes, Saria Hassan, and Rosette Chakkalalal

have an opportunity for a nutrition PhD student to work with them on the topic of Understanding Food Insecurity in Atlanta. The student will contribute to recruiting study participants and conducting in-depth interviews, assist with data management and processing, and contribute to data analysis and dissemination of findings.

Duration: May - August 2023 required; May – December 2023 is desirable

Time commitment: 20 hours per week (negotiable)

More information: Contact Dr. Siegel (karen.r.siegel@emory.edu)

Implementation Science Research Project on Social Behavior Change in the Context of Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

Dr Webb Girard and her team are looking for 1-2 PhD students to work on a BMGF funded implementation science research project that will cover the following topical domains: social and behavior change, program implementation and implementation science research, maternal and child nutrition, food security, and agriculture. Student(s) will lead a maternal nutrition systematic review and meta-analysis and support other activities including qualitative data analysis and preparation of manuscripts. Students should apply directly to Dr. Webb Girard (awebb3@emory.edu) with subject line summer rotation opportunity. Qualitative research or previous systematic review / meta-analysis experience preferred but not required.

Pediatric Physical Activity Study

Dr. Frediani has an opportunity for a student to work on a pediatric physical activity study that will be conducted in the Fall at a Decatur aftercare program. The opportunity will include IRB submission experience, recruitment (depending on start date), primary data collection, intervention delivery, analysis, and opportunity to be first author on the paper if willing. Please contact Dr. Jennifer Frediani (jfredia@emory.edu) for more information.

Potential Rotation with Heifer International

Heifer is partnering with a company to measure “meals produced.” We created this indicator, to fit into the company’s wider “meals delivered” corporate social responsibility reporting. Our meals produced indicator uses existing internal data to convert agricultural production into calories, aggregate the calories into total production, discount total production to factor in wastage and other uses beyond human consumption, and then aggregate the calories into “meals produced” by utilizing an endogenous estimation of the size of an average meal.

We are looking to partner with a student to: A) think about ways we might improve our internal methodology; B) calculate the meals produced for about 25 projects using existing Heifer data; C) present the results at the regional and organizational level; D) brainstorm with Heifer Monitoring and Evaluation staff on ways we might automate the calculation process. While this opportunity does not require travel, Heifer would be open to flying the student to Arkansas and/or DC to give the final presentation.

Pediatric NAFLD mitochondrial dysfunction analysis

We are conducting a sub-study investigating pediatric NAFLD and mitochondrial dysfunction at the Emory Clinical Biomarkers laboratory. The study entails analyzing blood samples from controls and children with NAFLD using the Seahorse XF HS Mini Analyzer. Training and guidance will be provided on sample processing.

This rotation will satisfy the data collection through lab work requirement and provide an opportunity to learn about changes in mitochondrial oxidation, glycolysis, and ATP production associated with metabolic dysfunction and disease. Further, publications will be made after the computational analysis is conducted and finalized (this is not part of the rotation, but co-authorship will be invited). If interested, please contact Dr. Miriam Vos (mvos@emory.edu) or Helaina Huneault (hhuneau@emory.edu).

Dried blood spots – Metabolomics analysis

Dr Dana Barr and Dr Usha Ramakrishnan are seeing a PhD student to work on a lab-based research project this summer. It is a HERCULES funded research project that is analyzing dried blood spots (DBS) through untargeted metabolomics. The DBS come from mother-child pairs as part of the HAPIN randomized control trial in four countries (Rwanda, India, Guatemala, Peru). Students will gain hands-on experience in my laboratory with sample logistics and metabolomics analysis. Interested students can apply directly to Dr. Dana Barr (dbbarr@emory.edu) or Dr. Usha Ramakrishnan (uramakr@emory.edu) and with the subject line HERCULES rotation opportunity.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The launch of the Danone Institute North America Sustainable Food Systems Initiative (formerly the One Planet. One Health Initiative) Request for Proposals

Danone Institute North America announces a request for proposals for the third offering of its Danone Institute North America Sustainable Food Systems Initiative (formerly the One Planet. One Health Initiative). The DINA Sustainable Food Systems Initiative is a competitive program that will select and fund up to five transdisciplinary teams in 2023 to design, implement and evaluate actionable community-based projects on sustainable food systems that contribute to the nutritional health of populations and support communication about their impact.

Each selected team will receive a USD 50,000 DINA Sustainable Food Systems Initiative grant to implement its project and amplify its message to a broader audience over a two-year period.

Team Requirements: To be eligible for this initiative, each team must meet the following requirements:

- Teams should include four core team members representing diverse disciplines related to food systems, including, but not limited to, nutrition, health, economics, agriculture, community food access and social or environmental sciences. All team members must actively work together on the project rather than serving exclusively in an advisory role.
- At least one team member must be a faculty member from a U.S. or Canadian institution of higher education. The team may include other academic members, other professionals and practitioners, such as dining directors, community leaders or agricultural experts.
- While more team members may be involved, only four will attend the in-person program in October 2023. To the extent possible, the four team members named in the application should be the team members who will be attending the program.

Proposal Requirements: Proposals are due Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. EDT, and must include the following components:

Detailed information: <https://www.danoneinstitutena.org/>

Predocctoral and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Cardiovascular Health Inequalities

The Department of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, is seeking pre- and postdoctoral fellows for a NHLBI-funded training grant in cardiovascular diseases and related conditions. The program focuses on broadly-defined health inequalities, including, among others, factors such as race/ethnicity, sex/gender, socioeconomic status, and geographical residence. Housed in the Department of Epidemiology, the training program is affiliated with several other departments and schools including Public Health, Cardiology, Medicine, Nursing, and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Applications open to U.S. citizens and permanent U.S. residents

Start date as early as July 2023.

Website:

<https://sph.emory.edu/departments/epi/research/centers/t32/index.html>

More details and application:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/4b1dfd44901/938084c3-4160-4a8a-90cb-4a05f19fadd9.pdf?rdr=true>

Public health Postdoc in Oral Health at Kennesaw State University (KSU)

Professor Christina Scherrer of Industrial and Systems Engineering whose primary research area is applications of ISYE to public health is hiring a public health postdoctoral researcher to work on her research team. The postdoc would join her lab to work on two NIH-grant funded projects related to reducing disparities in preventive oral health. It is a great opportunity for

someone interested in growing their quantitative skills (statistics, optimization, economic decision analysis, simulation) while contributing on a supportive, truly interdisciplinary team of undergraduates, PhD students, faculty and consultants. Excellent technical writing skills are essential, and an ideal candidate will possess background in implementation science, oral health, and/or preventive health. Qualified candidates can reach out to her directly with questions, in addition to applying directly.

More information: <https://www.higheredjobs.com/faculty/details.cfm?JobCode=178342230>

Post Doc Research Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic

Dr Omar Sims, the Director of Hepatology Research (Hepatology) at the Cleveland Clinic, is recruiting a 2-year Postdoctoral Research Fellow with a PhD in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, or related field for a Post-doc in Digestive Health Sciences for the NIH T32. The post-doc will be focused on digestive health sciences (i.e., gastroenterology/hepatology research). Prior research experience in digestive health sciences is preferred but not required.

Appointee requirements: U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status is required for the NIH-funded T32.

Inquiries can be directed to: Omar T. Sims, at simso@ccf.org

Division of Population Health Research (DiPHR) Postdoctoral Fellowship

The NICHD Office of the DiPHR Director (OD) within the National Institutes of Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is seeking applicants for a postdoctoral fellowship to join a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team and develop their own projects within the scope of ongoing research in the branch. A postdoctoral fellowship is available within the research group led by Dr. Una Grewal. Fellows will have access to rich, population-based datasets addressing the role of nutrition on pregnancy outcomes (e.g., labor and delivery, gravid disorders, intrauterine growth restriction) and will have the opportunity to participate in the branch's ongoing work that focuses on:

- Examining the influence of maternal dietary intake on fetal growth and pregnancy outcomes in a racial/ethnic diverse, contemporary pregnancy cohort
- Investigating the effects of modifiable factors, including lifestyle factors and nutrition, on changes in fetal body composition and organ volumes
- Machine learning to identify dietary and lifestyle elements most important to fertility, maternal, pregnancy, and neonatal outcomes
- Integrating data from multiple cohorts to examine the contribution of nutrition to maternal and neonatal health

The fellow's time is devoted to developing an independent line of research, analyzing data, and preparing manuscripts, mentoring postbaccalaureate

fellows, and participating in career development activities within NICHD and NIH's broader Intramural Research Program. DiPHR fellows are encouraged to present their research at national scientific meetings and to seek out networking and funding opportunities in preparation for the transition to an independent scientific career. Candidates with superior analytic, written, and oral communication skills; interests aligned with the areas of nutritional research currently under investigation in the branch; and a strong commitment to promoting a diverse, respectful, and inclusive workplace are encouraged to apply.

Before starting the fellowship, the postdoctoral fellow must have completed the requirements for their doctoral degree in nutrition or a closely related field (e.g., epidemiology, public health) with strong quantitative skills, and must have no more than 5 years of research experience since receipt of their doctoral degree. Applications from women, persons from underrepresented groups, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Appointees may be U.S. citizens or resident aliens. This position is subject to a background check. Prospective applicants are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Grewal at grewalja@mail.nih.gov to discuss fellowship opportunities.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

4th annual Systems Science for Social Impact Summer Training Institute, July 31-Aug 4

This 5-day training is designed for faculty, advanced graduate students, recent graduates, and professionals from public health, social work, and social sciences. Participants will receive training on Agent-based Modeling, Group Model Building, Social Network Analysis, System Dynamics, and Systems Thinking.

Applications accepted through July 5, 2023

More information: <https://systemsscienceforsocialimpact.wustl.edu/>

American Society for Nutrition Early Career Nutrition Webinar 3: Beyond Academia

This free webinar will be an expert panel of early career nutrition researchers that hold careers outside of academia. Two representatives from three sectors (government, NGO/Health Associations, and Industry) will comprise the panel. Date & Time: May 19, 2023 12:00 PM Eastern Time

Registration link: https://nutrition-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cLKhaifHQvOugiAYFM8yfA#/registration

FIELD-RELATED CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Football is Medicine (FIM) Conference, Emory University, June 7-9 2023

Dr. Lobelo is hosting the 2023 FIM Conference at Emory in the first week of June. See below for more information.

Website:

<https://sph.emory.edu/departments/gh/training/conferences/index.html>

Registration: <https://ce.emorynursingexperience.com/courses/5th-annual-fim-workshop-and-conference-2023>

Dates: June 7th to 9th, 2023

FIM Pre-Conference Training Workshop June 7th, 2023; From 1 to 8 pm;

Registration Cost \$75

FIM Scientific Conference June 8th & 9th; Registration Cost \$150

Attendance to both the Workshop and Scientific Conference – Registration Cost \$200

ASN Networking Event

ASN's student interest group and early career nutrition group are having a networking event for anyone interested! Link to register: <https://lnkd.in/gsjCxAh>

NOPREN Early Childhood Work Group Student Research Spotlight, July 2023

The NOPREN Early Childhood Work Group is inviting doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows to submit abstracts on novel research that aligns with the work group's focus on policy, systems, and environmental approaches to improve nutrition and promote healthy development in the places where young children (ages 0 through 5) live. Abstracts will undergo peer review and the top scoring will be invited to present at the Work Group's meeting on July 10, 2023 from 1-2pm EDT.

Abstracts close: May 31, 2023

Notification: June 20, 2023

Presentation: July 10, 2023 1-2pm EST

Questions: Contact Katherine Pope (kjpope@iu.edu) or Elder Garcia Varela (elder89@ufl.edu)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS/ASSOCIATESHIPS

TA for Global Elimination of Micronutrient Malnutrition

Dr Young is looking for a teaching associate for Global Elimination of Micronutrient Malnutrition (GH:552, 2 credits, Friday's 10:10-12). TA would

join the teaching team with Dr Melissa Young and Dr Rafael Flores. This course aims to: 1) describe the magnitude and severity of global micronutrient malnutrition; 2) describe policies, strategies, programs and projects aimed at eliminating maternal and child micronutrient malnutrition, including evidence of efficacy and effectiveness. Please reach out Dr Young at melissa.young@emory.edu to discuss further!

Fall 2023 Lab Instructor/TA positions at Emory's Department of Biology

Emory's Department of Biology has opened applications for Fall Intro Bio Lab Instructor positions, which are a great way to gain teaching experience. Lab Instructors may be Emory graduate students, postdocs, faculty or staff, or people outside of Emory with biology research experience. Paid Instructors receive \$2000-2500 for each section of BIOL 120 they teach and \$2500-3000 for each section of BIOL 141 they teach (the difference in stipends reflects the amount of graded work in the courses). Graduate students can either be paid or earn credit for their PhD TA requirement. Our lab course learning goals focus on research skills, scientific communication, and collaboration. Instructors are trained with weekly prep meetings and provided with lab materials, power points and rubrics for each lab period. Additionally, an Undergraduate Learning Assistant is assigned to each section to provide hands-on support during lab. Instructors receive mid- and end-of-semester student evaluations, training in pedagogical techniques, and mentoring from the Lab Director and experienced Instructors. Lab projects are organized into multi-week modules using model systems such as bacteria, yeast, bean beetles, and *C. elegans*. Background with basic biology and research skills are required but no prior experience with the systems or techniques are needed as these are introduced in Instructor prep meetings. The Fall semester runs from August 23rd to December 5th. Applications are considered on a rolling basis starting April 1st. Please contact Megan Cole at mfc@emory.edu with any questions.

To apply click this link:

https://emorycollege.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4YJpIgd4mKYxEpg

SPECIAL FEATURE
DR. MARY BETH WEBER, NEW CO-DGS

What is the role of the DGS?

Broadly, the DGS oversees the program administration and mentors and supports students and candidates during their studies. In other words, the DGS ensures that the program is running efficiently and meeting the needs of the students and faculty, makes adjustments as needed, meets with students to review progress, advise, and problem solve, works with the Laney Graduate School, and advocates for the NHS program.

What do you anticipate as potential challenges or exciting parts of your new position?

Stepping into any new role is both challenging and exciting. I have a lot to learn, but I am looking forward to supporting NHS in a new way. I am particularly excited to interact with the NHS students more; as Recruiter, my efforts were so focused on getting the best students to Emory that I had little time to keep up with what everyone is doing now. I am really looking forward to catching up with you all!

What can students anticipate from you as DGS?

Since you all were recruited to NHS by me, I am sure you have a pretty good idea of my mentorship and communication style. That will continue as my role shifts from Recruiter to DGS, and I hope that you all still feel comfortable reaching out to me with questions or concerns. In addition, I feel that one of the greatest strengths of the NHS program is how student focused it is. I plan to continue the tradition of DGSs before me of listening to your needs and working together to ensure the NHS program continues to challenge, support, prepare, and educate students.

Are there any future plans to improve/strengthen the program?

One thing I am very passionate about is grant writing, and I hope to add more training on grant writing to the curriculum.

What is the best way for students to reach you?

As always, you can email me at any time to set up a meeting - mbweber@emory.edu. I am always happy to talk to you about anything - classes, dissertation, research, work-life balance, cookie baking, transitioning to life as faculty, etc.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Xin Hu

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

Describe your academic path to your current position? How long have you been at Emory?

Back in 2007, I decided my life needed a change, so I packed my bags and headed to the U.S. to pursue a PhD in toxicology at University of Iowa – a far cry from my undergrad in engineering! During my graduate studies and two extra years as a post-doc, I discovered a passion for environmental health research. I was almost ready to accept a government job as a risk assessment scientist until I realized that what I really wanted to do is academic research. Luckily, I landed a postdoc position with Dean Jones and Young-Mi Go at Emory in 2015. Even luckier, I was able to continue my interest in mass spec and begin to learn metabolomics and multiple omics, which later became important parts of my own research. In 2020, I joined the faculty at Pulmonary Division and embarked on my journey as a new, independent researcher.

What is your particular area of research and how did you become interested in it?

My research focuses on how environmental factors during early life, such as exposure to toxic and nutritional chemicals, can impact lung development and lead to impaired lung function. I am particularly intrigued by the unknowns in children's lung health: what makes some apparently normal babies go on to develop asthma and what can we do to prevent that from happening? To answer those, we need to learn more about how lungs grow and develop in the first place.

What did you enjoy the most about your graduate school experience?

I enjoyed being in an interdisciplinary program. I got to meet and learn from experts in public health, engineering, chemistry, pharmacology, medicine and many more. As an international student and new to the field, it was crucial for me to broaden my horizons through those interactions.

Do you have any professional development advice for NHS students?

There were two times when I faced some steep learning curves: One time was during my first year of PhD studies when I took an advanced molecular biology course as someone who knows little more than the word DNA. The other time was when I had to use bioinformatics and R programming for the first time. Both experiences were challenging but both times gave me some unexpected changes – I developed a strong interest in both molecular biology and bioinformatics, and now they are critical approaches in my current research. So this is what I learnt: don't shy away from the challenges that seem impossible to beat, because you may just surprise yourself with what you're capable of!

Describe any challenging and exciting parts of your current position?

The fun and exciting part about being a faculty member is to have the almost unlimited freedom in scientific inquiry in terms of identifying research questions, applying new techniques, designing experiments, and brainstorming new collaborates, and teaching. However, this freedom comes at a cost, as it requires a great deal of critical thinking, patience, endurance and simply time to develop an idea into a formal research project. The potential amount of work that comes with the limitless possibilities can be overwhelming.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love reading detective stories, especially those that dive deep into intricacies of personalities and have a good dose of analytical thinking and humor. My all-time favorite is the Miss Marple book series, which I've devoured many times. More recently, I got into British detective shows, and my current favorite is Midsomer Murders. My husband and I like to watch it together and see who can crack the case first!

Describe any potential rotation opportunities?

I am very excited about this newly funded project on metal exposure and lung development and look forward to working with a passionate student who shares my fascination for lung biology and experimental omics. For those who love to flex their computational skills, I also have other projects that will be ideal for rotation experience on omics data analysis.

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRIYA DAS

Dear NHS family,

Thank you so much for your support and kind words. Many of you are already aware that I have recently been experiencing some medical issues. Special thanks to spectacular NHS alumni and faculty, you know who you are.

At first I thought this was anxiety/general graduate school stress/imposter syndrome. I am super grateful to my dissertation chair and dissertation committee who listened to me and empowered me to seek out healthcare services, advocate for myself, and exhaust my resources. After exhausting therapy (if you don't do this already, highly recommend) and consultations with Emory psych, I suffered a seizure at brunch with my husband at one of my favorite spots, El Tesoro. If you ever go there, please let me know so I can place an order through you (I can't send my husband back until he recovers from this trauma too).

So far, here's what we know:

- I have a grade 3 glioma with an IDH mutation- POP QUIZ: does anyone know what that enzyme is and in what metabolic cycle. That is a hint?
- Feeling very fortunate that this mutation is there and that I am in a place with incredible support and excellent healthcare.
- The plan is to have 6 weeks of radiation therapy (proton therapy) at Emory and up to one year of chemotherapy.

What I expect from all of you in this time

- If I taught you anything in PUBH 701- Always remember, when public health and humanity intersect- IT IS POWERFUL, so be thoughtful about your tribe and continue the great work that NHS is known for globally. I will come back sharper and ready to work alongside you!
- People are welcome to visit in July - we will send out a google survey and limit visitation hours.

- Upon arrival, please prepare yourself to see my public health/Zika IMS training/planning a pandemic wedding in action. There will be signs to help us flow through the space safely. I request you help me sharpen my brain either by submitting a flashcard with your SME knowledge or responding to a question I have posed- many are philosophical and I imagine Venkat will enjoy them.
- If I have to shave my head- it will be a party. Some of you may know I went to a women's college (Bryn Mawr) where it was common to shave your head for a noble cause (like picking up oil spills) additionally we would make flower crowns to honor Athena, the patron goddess of the college.

Other reflections

- You can never predict what life will throw at you. I am humbled by the outpouring of love and support from my community.
- At this time, my husband and I are very well fed. Rest assured that the nutritional balance of our diet has been evaluated and is beyond the standard.
- In June, we will send out a google doc - please add to it! All expertise will be welcomed at this time.
- The goal is to starve the tumor. Now that I am an epileptic, POP QUIZ: which diet is best?
 - Mediterranean diet
 - Ketogenic diet
 - Other _____

It's usually more my nature to be the caregiver, but I am learning to accept help. I do not want to contribute to food wastage so we ask that you hold tight from food donations at this time. We will coordinate with a selected person or two for communications and if we have any needs.

For the moment- sleep, family time, and puppy love are my next steps.

With love and gratitude to all of you and science,

Priya

Loyal pup encouraging us to rest and rebuild, nutrition, and Emory love



Style Improvements





NHS ACTIVITIES

NHS Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Aryeh Stein for receiving the NHS Mentor of the Year Award and Melissa Chapnick for the Outstanding Student Mentor Award !!!



Have a wonderful and relaxing Summer!



Join our Alumni and Student Group on LinkedIn!

Copyright © *|2023|* *|Emory Nutrition & Health Sciences Program|*, All rights reserved.
|May 2023 Newsletter|

Our email addresses are:

*|wilhemina.quarpong@emory.edu|**|lan.tran2@emory.edu|*

unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Emory Nutrition & Health Sciences Program · 1518 Clifton Rd · Atlanta, GA 30322 · USA

