

LEAHP Scholar Bios, 2020-2021

Miriam H. Ayub, MD



Dr. Miriam Ayub was born and raised in the Washington DC area, but it was not until she was five years into her career as a primary care clinician educator at an academic medical center in DC that she learned to appreciate the impact of health policy on every aspect of patient care and the physician experience. Being associate division chief and medical director of her practice during the current COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced this concept even further, with new opportunities and challenges arising every week including expanded access to telemedicine services and worrisome disparities in health outcomes.

From 2016-2019, Ayub co-directed a course for medical students and residents at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. In addition to didactic sessions, they take advantage of their unique location in the nation's capital by going on site visits to Capitol Hill, governmental public health agencies, and policy/public health research centers. Ayub has now joined SGIM LEAHP in hopes of leveraging the network she has created in order to create an advocacy project which could impact patients in the whole DC metropolitan area. Her main areas of interest are payment reform and increasing access to care, and she hopes to be able to advocate for policies that support primary care physicians, who play a crucial role in the care of entire populations. She is particularly interested in investigating how we can decrease the burden of paperwork in primary care, and what the role of telemedicine should be after COVID-19.

Robert Badgett, MD



Dr. Robert Badgett's goal is widespread improvement in workforce well-being in health care delivery organizations (HCDOs). This is for the mutual benefit of patients, the health care workforce, and the HCDOs. His immediate goals are to implement measurement in his institution and state. In both settings, measurement will guide a positive deviance intervention.

Robert came to the fields of organizational behavior and healthcare policy later into his career. The first 20 years were in Texas with a focus on evidence-based medicine and informatics, specifically information retrieval, dissemination, and publishing. This gave him a helpful foundation in evidence, technology, and analytics.

Moving to a smaller medical school in 2010, Robert was asked to reboot in quality improvement. He was struck by the inconsistent, sometimes toxic, more often apathetic cultures in clinical sites where his students executed QI projects. Robert abandoned sites that had no ability to improve.

In response, he began collaboration with experts in positive organizational psychology at the KU School of Business in Lawrence. This built on prior collaboration with the UT-Austin Business School whose focus was complexity science to foster innovation.

These experiences led to the recognition of positive deviance as a key improvement strategy under specific conditions: when quality of performance is heterogeneous and more so if the knowledge and skills needed for success are tacit. Robert's research in progress has measured substantial heterogeneity across healthcare organizations in their ability to create engagement and avoid burnout in their workforce.

Michael Brunnquell, MD, MPH



After growing up in Minnesota, Mike went from a politics nerd to a health policy nerd while working in D.C. during the passage of the A.C.A. During the course of medical school he interned on Capitol Hill for Senator Amy Klobuchar, and received his MPH in Health Policy and Management. He moved west for residency at the University of Colorado and was thrilled become faculty at UCH while being a hospitalist at Denver Health, the safety net, teaching hospital for Denver and the surrounding area.

Since starting at Denver Health Mike has been involved in the Health Equity Pathway for resident education. He leads the health policy and advocacy portion of the pathway. He is also trying to establish a health policy elective for internal medicine residents at UCH. His interest in health policy and advocacy is around expanding access to health care for those living in the Denver Metro without documentation and Medicaid policy.

Nancy Connolly, MD, MPH, FACP



Dr. Connolly began her career in healthcare in 1988, as an Alternate Infectious Disease Investigator with the Santa Cruz County Public Health Department. Duties included: phlebotomy for the methadone clinic, water quality analysis, glass cleaning and media preparation. She completed her undergraduate degree, then spent 2 years in the Peace Corps in West Africa helping eradicate Guinea Worm.

After Peace Corps, she completed medical school; then internship, and residency in Chicago and Pittsburgh. Fellowship training at the University of Pittsburgh followed; in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases while concurrently earning an MPH, and remained as faculty before moving with her young family to Seattle in 2008. In 2018 she completed a Fellowship in Integrative Medicine at the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona.

Her first decade in Seattle involved working as an Internist as part of a multi-specialty private practice, the latter half as Section Head of her satellite group of 12 providers. In 2018, she moved to the University of Washington serving as an Internist for Seattle's growing homeless community, many of whom suffer from PTSD, chronic mental illness and addiction.

She is motivated to improve the way we utilize our common resources for health care for all sectors of our population; from the homeless to the affluent. She sees 'health care' in the broadest perspective as defined by WHO, "a state of complete physical and mental well-being" believing that doctors can and should be influential in helping individuals, communities and governments achieve this state.

Arnab K. Gosh, MD, MSc, MA, FACP



Arnab K. Ghosh MD, MSc MA FACP is an internist, hospitalist and budding health economist at Weill Cornell in New York. His research focuses on racial and socioeconomic health-related disparities related to federal and state healthcare finance policy. His interests in health policy developed organically since medical school.

Originally from Australia, he sat on the AMSA national executive where he advocated for workforce issues for students and resident physicians at a federal level. After moving to New York to work in global health, Arnab completed his residency in internal medicine/primary care at NYU as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) became law, strengthening his interest in health policy. After residency, he worked for the consulting firm McKinsey & Co focused on health systems in the changing ACA environment, and then returned to academic life to study these changes formally.

He is excited to be a part of the LEAHP cohort, where he hopes to focus his time writing about policy issues facing America's vulnerable populations, learning more about the relationship between state and federal health policy, and advocating for vulnerable populations and their access to healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the future, he plans to use the tools and expertise he learned from LEAHP to develop federal health policy in Washington DC.

Kendrick Gwynn, MD, MPH



Kendrick Gwynn, MD, MPH is a primary care physician at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians and is the physician lead for the Care, Coding and Revenue Enhancement (C-CARE) Team at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Gwynn is board certified in both internal medicine and public health and general preventive medicine. Dr. Gwynn holds a faculty position at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as a part time Instructor of Medicine, where he teaches medical students at the School of Medicine.

As a physician, Dr. Gwynn's career interests involve health policy and delivery system reform as they relate to eliminating health disparities and addressing the social determinants of health. He has worked in both the state and federal government on projects pertaining to policy development and project implementation.

Dr. Gwynn earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, completed residency at Emory University, followed by a combined general internal medicine fellowship and preventive medicine residency at Boston University/Boston Medical Center. He received his master degree in public health with a concentration in health policy and management from Boston University School of Public Health.

Tracey L. Henry, MD, MPH, MS



Dr. Tracey Henry is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University, clinical educator and attending physician in both inpatient and outpatient medicine. She is the Assistant Health Director in the Grady Primary Care Center and Co-Director of the Health Equity Advocacy Policy track for Emory's GME programs. She conducts research on health disparities and the intersection of mental health and primary care on chronic disease.

Dr. Henry earned her MD at Georgetown University and MPH from Johns Hopkins University. During residency, she served on ACP's Council of Residents/Fellows and the Louisiana State Medical Society Board of Governors and was awarded the American Medical Association (AMA)'s Paul Ambrose Award for

Leadership Among Resident Physicians. Dr. Henry also completed a Health Policy Fellowship at Georgetown University where she studied primary care-related health policies, healthcare delivery systems, and alternative payment models, her current policy areas of focus. She has held many leadership roles, including serving on the American Medical Student Association's Board of Regional Directors and is a delegate to the AMA's House of Delegates. Dr. Henry was selected as a 2017 Presidential Leadership Scholar, a national program designed for leaders from multi-sector backgrounds who share a commitment to solving society's greatest challenges.

Currently, she is Vice-Chair of the Medical Association of Georgia's Young Physician Section and serves on SGIM's Health Policy Education and Clinical Practice Committees. She also served on ACP's Health and Public Policy Committee and the Council of Early Career Physicians and recently completed her term with the NBME.

Lamar K. Johnson, MD



Lamar was born in Alexandria, Louisiana and moved frequently with his family during his childhood. He spent time living in Florida, Minnesota, and Oklahoma before graduating high school in the San Antonio, Texas area.

His travels have continued into adulthood: he earned his bachelor's degree in biology at Howard University in Washington, DC, and completed his medical education at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. He ventured north to Detroit, where he joined the Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics ("Med-Peds") program in 2014 and graduated in 2018. He served as chief resident for the 2018-2019 academic year, during which he also served as a clinical instructor for the Wayne State University School of Medicine. In 2019 he began his attending career as a hospitalist in both internal medicine and pediatrics within the Christiana Care health system.

His professional interests include global and community health, as well as health equity. He plans to incorporate primary care, medical education and public policy into his career. He hopes to leverage his position as a physician to positively impact health in his community and plans to use the LEAHP fellowship as an opportunity to better understand the system he hopes to improve.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, music, reading about history, health, and nutrition, learning new languages, traveling, and playing and watching sports.

Salmaan Kamal, MD



Salmaan (Sal) is from Tuscaloosa, AL and attended Princeton University with focuses in biology and public health. After college, he worked at the National Coalition on Health Care in Washington, DC for one year before returning to Alabama to attend UAB School of Medicine. In medical school, he helped run the school's free clinic for the uninsured and worked in Congresswoman Terri Sewell's DC office as a health policy fellow. He's currently a second year internal medicine resident at UAB and plans to pursue a career in academic GIM, caring for the underserved, and health policy reform. When not in the hospital, Sal enjoys lifting weights, biking, watching NBA basketball, and re-watching Marvel superhero movies!

Elizabeth Kolod, MD



Elizabeth "Betty" Kolod is an internist and preventive medicine resident at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. She grew up in Brooklyn, where she attended the State University of New York Downstate Medical College, training at Kings County Hospital. She completed the Primary Care and Social Internal Medicine Residency Program at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, during which she was a National Physicians Alliance Copello Advocacy Fellow. She practices primary care for people who use drugs at the Respectful and Equitable Access to Health Care (REACH) clinic at Mount Sinai, in addition to smoking cessation at the Prevention Clinic of the Bronx VA Medical Center.

Betty's advocacy interests include single payer health care, organized medicine, and collaboration between physicians and communities. She is involved in several short and long term advocacy initiatives including organizing physicians with the New York Doctors Coalition, establishing a task force for gender equity in health care, serving as an expert witness in the evaluation of individuals in jail or Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, and work with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition for racial justice and economic democracy. She lives in the Bronx.

Hannah Lichtsinn, MD



Hannah Lichtsinn is a med-peds trained primary care doctor in St Paul, MN. Her clinical work focuses on caring for adolescents and young adults with sickle cell anemia as well as other chronic health needs. She has done advocacy in areas of immigrant health and narrative driven health policy reform. Prior to the COVID pandemic she was working to eliminate the use of solitary confinement for at risk populations including those in ICE detention in MN. Now she is working to advocate for universal health insurance and a federally funded community health corps with direct community representation.

Matthew Mulligan, MD



Matt is a primary care physician and Assistant Professor within the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Utah. He majored in economics and biology at Johns Hopkins University, and worked for the World Bank in performance based health care financing for developing countries after graduation. He went to the University of Maryland School of Medicine for medical school, and the University of Utah for residency. He became interested in health policy through attending the American College of Physicians Leadership Day, and found that health policy built on his prior experiences in health economics and public health and could be used to improve population health. He was selected for a health policy internship with ACP during residency, and currently serves as the Health and Public Policy Committee Chair of Utah's Chapter of ACP.

He is interested in using health policy and advocacy to create systemic changes to improve our healthcare system particularly for the patients we serve. He has a broad range of interests within health policy including health care access and coverage, value based financing, and Medicare and Medicaid programs. He is also interested developing and contributing to health policy education for trainees. He is very excited to have been selected for LEAHP, and he looks forward to an educational and productive year!

Celeste Newby, MD, PhD, FACP



Dr. Celeste Newby is an academic hospitalist at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. Before medical school, Dr. Newby had a career in basic science. She has a PhD in molecular virology, and her graduate lab worked on viruses similar to Coronavirus. More recently, Dr. Newby is interested in health policy at both the state and national levels. She has an advocacy leadership position with American College of Physicians (ACP) Louisiana Chapter, and is on the Council on Legislation for the Louisiana State Medical Society. Dr. Newby is particularly interested in health advocacy that promotes equity in healthcare, universal healthcare coverage, transparency in drug pricing and hospital billing. In 2019, she attended the SGIM advocacy day and ACP Hill Day.

With the ongoing COVID pandemic, she is interested to see how policy and advocacy will be shaped during this challenging time. Additionally, Dr. Newby is interested in developing health advocacy curricula for graduate and post-graduate trainees. She is excited to share the knowledge gained by participating in the LEAHP program with the members of her home institution.

Hemali Patel, MD



Dr. Hemali Patel completed medical school, residency and chief residency at the University of South Florida followed by a fellowship in Academic Hospital Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco focusing on Quality Improvement. Hemali subsequently joined the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus where she is an Assistant Director of Quality Improvement. Hemali is also a Physician Advisor for utilization and case management for the University of Colorado Hospital. Her main interests are in health systems re-design to improve efficiency and quality of clinical care and practice.

Jackson Pearce, MD Candidate



Jackson Pearce is a third year medical student at the Medical University of South Carolina. Beyond his studies, he sits on several curriculum committees, serves in his school's medical clinics, and helps with various activities in admissions.

He was drawn to LEAHP for a number of reasons. Though he has obtained an elementary understanding of human disease, he has only limited insight into the systems that impact human health in the United States. Also, by planning to intercalate a degree in health policy or health economics between his third and fourth year of schooling, he hopes to enter the physician workforce more prepared and competent to actively contribute to health care reform. Eventually, his aim is to work at the intersection of health behaviors, public policy, and decision making.

Through LEAHP, he hopes to learn about meaningful advocacy and grow his knowledge of policy and health systems, while forming invaluable connections to others working in the field. He would also like to gain a greater understanding of the socioeconomic and financial barriers that patients face in accessing quality care. He believes that policy innovation can change the way we promote health and provide health care, and is confident that LEAHP will equip him with the tools to contribute to such work.

Valerie G. Press, MD, MPH, FACP, FAAP, SFHM



Valerie Press is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and is Executive Medical Director of Specialty Value Based Care at the University of Chicago. She received her undergraduate, medical, and public health degrees from the University of Michigan before completing her Med-Peds Residency at the University of Chicago. After residency she completed a Health Services Research Fellowship. Since Fellowship she has completed both an internal KM1 and an NIH K23 career development award and is currently funded by an NIH R03 grant. She Co-Directs the COPD Value Based Care Program and supports other specialty value based care programs through her role as Medical Director with the Center for Care

Transformation.

Dr. Press has focused her research on developing, testing, and evaluating patient-level and system-level interventions to improve the quality and value of care for patients with chronic lung diseases. Her background in health policy also leads her to focus her clinical and research programs to address relevant health policy, such as CMS' Hospital Readmission Reduction Program and improving the affordability of respiratory medications.

Dr. Press' current career focus is triangulating her clinical, research, and policy interests to improve the quality of care for patients with chronic lung diseases through implementation science and national advocacy for improved policies.

Stacie Renee Schmidt, MD



As Medical Director of the Primary Care Center (PCC) at Grady Memorial Hospital, Dr. Stacie Schmidt oversees care that is delivered in a low-resource setting, mostly for minority, uninsured/underinsured patients. Our patients have multiple complex chronic conditions and are affected by many social determinants of health. Providing care in this setting carries numerous responsibilities including assessing patients' health literacy, addressing financial ability to afford healthcare, engaging the adoption of healthy behaviors, addressing stress and trauma, and implementing team-centered approaches that engage social workers and community resources.

Dr. Schmidt's interests lie in understanding and advocating for societal resources and collaborative efforts to combat social determinants of health, leading to the creation of "An experiential resident curriculum for understanding social determinants of health at an academic safety-net hospital."

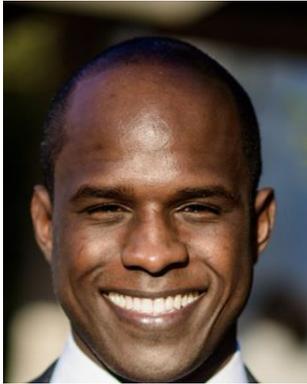
Sarguni Singh, MD, FHM



Dr. Sarguni Singh is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado. She attended medical school at Oregon Health and Science University and completed her Internal Medicine internship and residency at the University of Wisconsin Madison. She currently serves as a Physician Advisor for the University of Colorado Health system.

Dr. Singh is interested in improving palliative care outcomes for patients with advanced cancer and progressive functional decline in the post-acute care setting by developing and implementing effective person-centered interventions that interrupt the cycle of repeated institutionalization towards the end of life. Her goal is to impact health care policy reform moving health care delivery systems to better serve the needs of patients with serious illness and limited rehabilitation potential at the end of life.

Sire Djekou Sow, MD, MPH



Dr. Sire Sowe is an Assistant Professor in the field of Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. He works as an extensivist within a multidisciplinary team to optimize the care of high-need, high-cost (HNHC) patients. By tackling this population's unmet medical, behavioral and social needs, their team aims to achieve better health outcomes.

Sire's interest in health policy stems from a lifelong passion for social justice. He aspires to uplift and empower historically vulnerable communities, like the ones his patients originate from. Recent shifts in the reimbursement of healthcare services have promoted a renewed focus on addressing the mid and upstream social risk factors and determinants of health (SDH) impacting communities. This work has been hampered by a lack of coordination and knowledge-sharing between medical, public health and social services systems.

Through the LEAHP program, Sire wishes to learn how to most effectively embed his clinic in its surrounding communities, as well as increase collaborations with local public health and social services organizations. He also wishes to develop the tools to advocate for community informed policies that encourage cross sector coordination to alleviate SDH barriers at various levels of society.

Sarah A. Stella, MD



Sarah Stella, MD, is an internal medicine hospitalist at Denver Health (Denver's safety-net hospital) and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado. She is passionate about addressing health inequities among patients experiencing homelessness through community partnered research, systems improvement work, and advocacy.

Dr. Stella created a partnership with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, a provider of housing, and integrated healthcare, to improve care for those experiencing homelessness in Denver. This included developing a community advisory panel to identify opportunities and priorities to improve hospital care and care transitions, leadership of a supportive housing pilot program for Medicaid beneficiaries, and most recently, participation on the Denver Joint Task Force for COVID-19 in persons experiencing homelessness.

Carl G. Streed Jr., MD, MPH, FACP



Carl Streed Jr is an Assistant Professor in the Boston University School of Medicine. After attending medical school and residency in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins he completed fellowship in General Internal Medicine at Brigham & Women's.

Nationally, he has chaired the American Medical Association Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues and served on the board of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality. Carl's efforts to improve the health and well-being of sexual and gender minority individuals and communities have earned him several awards, notably from the University of Chicago

Alumni Association, the American Medical Association Foundation, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as well as recognition from the Obama White House.

As the Research Lead for the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at Boston Medical Center he collaborates with researchers, physicians, and staff to assess and address the health and well-being of transgender and gender diverse individuals.