

# Bridging the Gaps

2022 Health Action Report



## Our Mission

**Bridging the Gaps (BTG)** links the provision of health-related service for under-resourced populations with the interprofessional training of health and social service professionals.



As we complete our 32nd program year, we thank all the people and organizations who have

made Bridging the Gaps possible, many of whom are listed in this report. The past few years have tested our responsiveness to events that have rapidly altered the world's balance and created new challenges — events that often disproportionately impact the people we serve. We are continually reminded of the need for people with the skills and commitment to create new ways of addressing inequities. BTG invests in the development of future health and social service professionals, supporting their vision, dedication, and ability to effect change, while simultaneously offering organizations who serve marginalized and disadvantaged people additional staffing for health-related services. As we build on our mission, we are ever grateful for the valued relationships that have resulted and the many stakeholders who make it achievable.

With much gratitude,  
**Lucy Tuton**  
for the BTG Network

## BTG Network

### PHILADELPHIA CONSORTIUM

**Louis M. Bell Jr., MD**  
University of Pennsylvania

**Hillary Bogner, MD, MSCE**  
University of Pennsylvania

**Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP**  
University of Pennsylvania

**Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW**  
Drexel University  
*BTG Program Director*

**Maria Hervada-Page, MSS**  
Thomas Jefferson University  
*BTG Program Director*

**Angela Kim, MD**  
Drexel University

**Ingrid Mapanao, MSW, MPH**  
Temple University  
*BTG Program Director*

**Ellen Martinak, MS**  
University of Pennsylvania  
*BTG Program Director*

**Bridget McCormick, MS**  
University of Pennsylvania

**Laura Mullin, BA**  
Drexel University

**Providenza Rocco, JD, MSW, MBE, HEC-C**  
Temple University  
*BTG Program Director*

**Lucy Wolf Tuton, PhD**  
University of Pennsylvania  
*BTG Executive Director*

**George P. Valko, MD**  
Thomas Jefferson University

**Brian Work, MD, MPH**  
Temple University

**Jerome Wright, BA**  
Temple University  
*BTG Program Director*

**Vincent J. Zarro, MD, PhD**  
Drexel University

### COOPER MEDICAL SCHOOL OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY

**Mara Gordon, MD**  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, *BTG Program Director*

**Anthony L. Rostain, MD, MA**  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, *BTG Program Director*

### LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (LECOM)

**Leah Labranche, PhD**  
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, *BTG Program Director*

**Noelle R. Thielman, PhD**  
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

### LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

**Abby S. Letcher, MD**  
Lehigh Valley Health Network

**Mary Ellen T. Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC**  
DeSales University  
*BTG Program Director*

### DREXEL UNIVERSITY - READING

**Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP**  
Drexel University  
*BTG Program Director*

### UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

**Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA**  
University of Pittsburgh  
*BTG Program Director*

**Brandi Boak, BS, CNP**  
University of Pittsburgh

**Alda Gonzaga, MD, MS**

## 2022-23 Advisory Board Members

**Mary Ellen Bradley, MSW**  
*BTG Program Director Emeritus*

**James W. Buehler, MD**  
*Professor*  
Health Management and Policy  
Drexel University  
Dornsife School of Public Health

**Richard J. Cohen, PhD, FACHE**  
*President and CEO*  
Public Health Management  
Corporation

**Ellen H. Funk**  
*President*  
Ellen Funk and Associates

**Jeane Ann Grisso, MD, MSc**  
*Professor Emeritus*  
Public Health, Nursing and Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania

**Dee Reiley Hillas**  
*Community Advocate*

**Willie D. Little, MSW**  
*Community Health Advocate*

**Edward Naugle, PhD**  
*Director*  
Pennsylvania Primary Care Office  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

**Maria Pajil-Battle**  
*Community Advocate*

**Sister Mary Scullion, RSM**  
*Executive Director*  
Project HOME

**Bruce A. Self, CFA**  
*Senior Vice President*  
Truist Wealth  
*Regional Managing Director*  
Truist Investment Services, Inc.  
Truist Advisory Services, Inc.

**Walter Tsou, MD, MPH**  
*Past President*  
American Public Health Association

**Thomas Vernon, MD**  
*Former Vice President*  
Merck Vaccine Division  
*Former Colorado State Health  
Director*

**Frances Walker-Ponnie**  
*Community Health Advocate*

**Mick Weeks, MPA**  
*Strategic Account Executive*  
Higher Education Jamf

**Dwayne Wharton, MEd**  
*Founder and Senior Advisor*  
Just Strategies



## BTG Alumni Network

Consistently gaining traction, the BTG Alumni Network provides opportunities for collaboration and mentorship among former student participants.

### Join Today!

If you are already a member, please join our [Alumni Directory](#).

**Our heartfelt thanks to BTG** for initially convening us and for facilitating rich opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and fellowship. BTGAN is now a lifelong opportunity. This year has been productive and enriching. We collaborated in developing the alumni website and a BTGAN LinkedIn page, participated in mentoring sessions, and structured discussions on ways to capitalize on the strengths of BTG. We also completed our first BTGAN event, “Innovation 101: Creating a Compelling Pitch.” Our network has grown to over 730 alumni! Now more than ever, we need healthcare providers with a strong social justice orientation. Being that professional in a rapidly changing world is an infinite journey, and BTGAN provides alumni with incredibly valuable opportunities to learn and teach as we work to

eradicate health inequity. We look forward to growing the network as we explore how alumni can benefit from the exceptional human capital that is BTG.

Warmly,  
The BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN)



### **Network Co-Chairs**

Marjorie Dejoie-Brewer, MD (L)  
[BTG CHIP 1993](#)

Jennifer Comerford, MJ, OTR/L (R)  
[BTG CHIP 1997](#)

## BTG Program Components

### CHIP (All Locations)

#### BTG Community Health Internship Program

BTG CHIP is a summer internship that matches students with community agencies/organizations, taking into account community site needs, professional disciplines and student interests. Whenever possible, students work in interprofessional teams. Students also participate in didactic sessions where community members and health professionals help them gain the skills and knowledge to be effective providers for under-resourced populations.

In the fall, BTG program locations host their own symposia to engage community representatives, public health officials, agency personnel, grantmakers, and university faculty and staff in the work of the program and to provide students with the opportunity to present their summer projects. The Annual Philadelphia Symposium includes representation from all program locations.

### BTG CHIP PROGRAMMATIC THEMES

Given the impact of oral health, smoking, and cardiovascular disease on overall health, BTG offers students access to mentors and tools to support health education and activities at the community level. In 2022 [students created robust educational resources](#) on these topics.

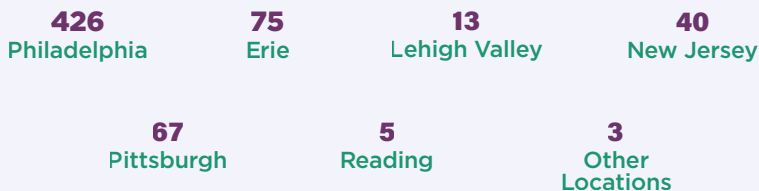


## BTG TO-DATE FACTS & FIGURES

### CHIP TO-DATE

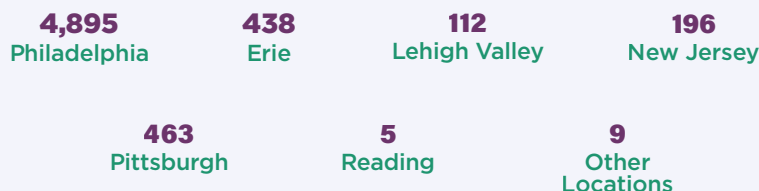
#### 629 Community Sites Served

since inception



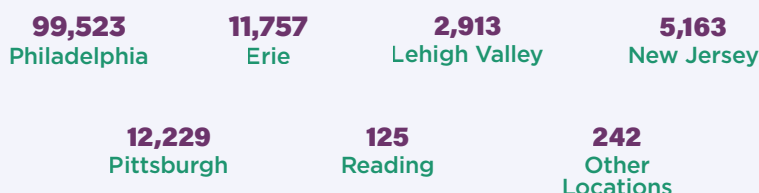
#### 6,118 Students Participated

since inception



#### 131,952 Days of Service Provided

from 2000-2022



### OTHER PROGRAMS TO-DATE

#### BTG Seminar Series

Fall 2003 - Spring 2023

**2,792**  
Students

Attended at least one seminar; some attended multiple seminars

#### BTG Community Health Rotation Program

Fall 2003 - Spring 2023

**362**  
Students

Completed the Community Health Rotation Program

#### BTG Community Health Scholars

Fall 2006 - Spring 2023

**216**  
Students

Graduated as Community Health Scholars

## Program Components (continued)

### Other Programs (Philadelphia)

Three BTG program components take place in Philadelphia, only:

#### BTG Seminar Series

This multipart series draws on the expertise of participating community partners and academic health centers. The sessions are designed to augment professional curricula in various content areas and to offer concrete strategies for addressing issues affecting under-resourced populations.

#### BTG Community Health Rotation Program

This advanced community rotation experience offers students a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to health and healthcare delivery for under-resourced populations.

#### BTG Community Health Scholars Program

Students who complete the BTG CHIP, Seminar Series, and Community Health Rotation Program graduate as BTG Community Health Scholars.

### Storytelling Project



The [Storytelling Project](#) provides students with an opportunity to gain perspective from a representative community member. Students are introduced to the topic of “narrative medicine” as the basis of the project and are encouraged to use the medium of their choosing (audio, video, painting, drawing, writing, etc.) to represent the story. (See [the student project summaries](#).)

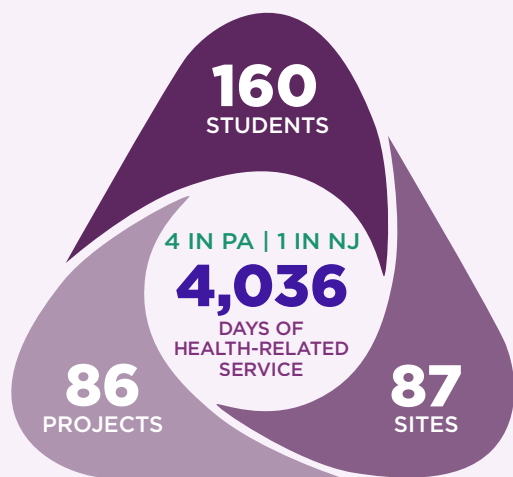
### The 32nd Annual Symposium



BTG held a [virtual symposium](#) on October 21, 2022, featuring Storytelling Project highlights, messages from community partners and BTG alumni, and an interactive poster session. **Heather McGhee, JD**, received the 2022 BTG award and delivered the keynote speech. **Ms. McGhee** is an educator and an activist who has crafted legislation, testified before Congress, and helped shape presidential campaign platforms. Her book, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, served as the central text for BTG in 2022.

## BTG 2022 FACTS & FIGURES

### CHIP 2022



#### Professional Disciplines

- Creative arts in therapy
- Dental medicine
- Medicine
- Occupational therapy
- Pharmacy
- Physician assistant
- Public health
- Social work
- Veterinary medicine

### OTHER 2022

#### BTG Seminar Series

**157**

**Students**

Attended at least one seminar

#### BTG Community Health Rotation Program

**25**

**Students**

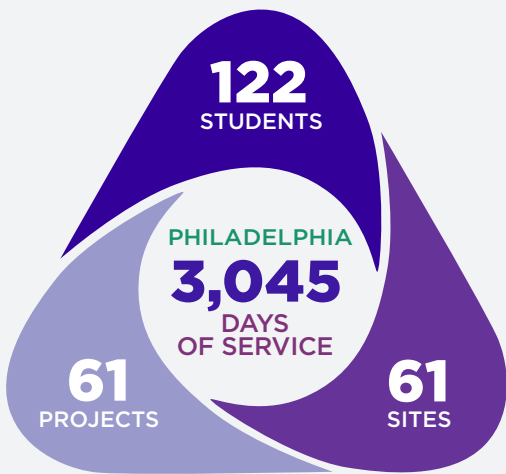
Participated in the Community Health Rotation Program

#### BTG Community Health Scholars

**18**

**Students**

Graduated as Community Health Scholars



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

- Creative arts in therapy
- Dental medicine
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Occupational therapy
- Pharmacy
- Public health
- Social work
- Veterinary medicine

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Cardiovascular health
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diet and nutrition
- Insurance/social services

- Mental health
- Oral health
- Poverty

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Health-related client education
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics

\* The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.



Thanks to the Bridging the Gaps participants, we are able to provide extra programming and educational curriculum, fun activities, and homework help to our children. Our children absolutely love the BTG students with whom they form caring and supportive relationships. I believe it is vital to continue these types of programs. For nonprofit community-based organizations like us, having educated and caring volunteers like the ones we regularly receive from the BTG network, allows us to enhance our programs to our children. We are not only thankful for the support but believe our partnership is integral to the success of our programs.

### Krista Wieder

North Light Community Center  
BTG Community Preceptor

## Philadelphia Program Participants

### Participating Institutions†

Bryn Mawr College  
Drexel University  
Temple University  
Thomas Jefferson University  
University of Pennsylvania

† Lehigh Valley and Cooper Medical School students participated in Philadelphia's core curricular sessions.



I continue to learn so much from the students, the group leaders, the speakers, the content, and also about myself. The world needs programs like BTG to promote intersectional perspectives and true collaboration. What a gift.

**Darcie Rudolf, MA, LPC, NC**  
BTG Small Group Leader

### Philadelphia Small Group Leaders

Susan Brotherton  
Tariem Burroughs  
Patrick Dooley  
Elissa Goldberg  
Teresa Mendez-Quigley  
Rayn Philips  
Darcie Rudolf  
Anthony Singleton  
Sara Solomon  
Nikki Thomas  
Crystal Wortham





**Philadelphia Program Participants** (continued)

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY**

**Program Staff and Faculty**

Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW,  
*Program Director*  
Laura Mullin, BA

**Academic Preceptors**

James Buehler, MD  
Tariem Burroughs, MEd, MSODL, MA  
Charlene Chen, MD  
Esther Chernak, MD, MPH, FACP  
Stacy Ellen, DO  
Annette B. Gadegbeku, MD  
Jeremiah Goldstein, MD  
Diane Gottlieb, MD  
Barbara Hogan-Zarro, PhD  
Scott Horowitz, MA, MT-BC,  
LPC, ACS  
Zach Kassutto, MD, FAAP  
Angela Kim, MD, MS, FAAP  
Renee Kottenhahn, MD  
Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP  
Priya Patel, MD  
Steven Peitzman, MD, FACP  
Michele Rattigan, MA, ATR-BC,  
NCC, LPC  
Kristen Ryczak, MD  
Emily Spengler, MD  
Daniel Taylor, DO, FAAP, FACOP  
Kelley White, MD  
Vincent Zarro, MD, PhD

**Community Preceptors**

Maribel Lozada Arzuaga  
AJ Ballard  
Roberta Balsam, MA  
Karisa Barlow

Laura Cardona-Cruz, MT-BC, MS  
Kelly Courts, MPH  
Jeannette Cruz, MTh  
Patrycja Dziekonska, MPH  
Jonathan Edwards  
Kimberly Fleisher  
Dawn George, MS, PsyD  
Rita Guevara, MD, FAAP  
Joni Helton  
Josh Irving  
Digo Kolingba, BA  
Renee Kottenhahn, MD  
Conny Lockwood  
Barry Mann, MD  
Natalie Padula, MS  
Paige Phillips  
Rayn Phillips, MSW, LSW  
Sara Popkin, MSW, LSW  
Shanise Redmon, MA  
Dorene Reggiani  
Brendan Sculley, MSW  
Crossley Simmons, MSW, MFA  
Emily Spengler, MD  
Kathryn Stroup, MD  
Daniel Taylor, DO, FAAP, FACOP  
Renee Turchi, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Risa Waldoks  
Lori Walsh  
Kevin Weber, BA  
Krista Wieder



*I am beyond grateful for my time spent with Bridging the Gaps and hope that it continues to run well into the future. This program attacks social injustice by putting us in real situations where we have to deal with and combat these structural issues. This is a program that has fundamentally changed my life. I was able to grow from being a homeless, food-insecure child on the streets of Philadelphia to a woman who was able to return the help to my community in a meaningful way.*

**Shanelle Jones**  
Drexel University  
Dornsife School of Public Health

*Completing the narrative medicine assignment was enlightening to learn about the continuum of medicine that proceeds after the family exits the physician's office. ... [It] pushed me to think about the vast and varied components that create a safe, healthy, and happy life. What we can provide our patients in the hospital or at their office visit as physicians is a vital part of healthcare, but it is not the end all be all when it comes to overall health and well-being. People like the amazing navigator that I had the pleasure of interviewing are the people and positions we need ... in our healthcare team to complete the circle of care.*

**Meghan Schilken**  
Drexel University  
College of Medicine

## Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

### TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

#### Program Staff and Faculty

Providenza Loera Rocco, JD, MSW, MBE, HEC-C, *Program Director (through June 30, 2022)*

Ingrid Mapanao, MSW, MPH, *Program Director (beginning July 1, 2022)*

Jerome Wright, BA, *Program Director (beginning July 1, 2022)*

Dianne Butera, MSW

Brian Work, MD, MPH

#### Academic Preceptors

Providenza Loera Rocco, JD, MSW, MBE, HEC-C

Brian Work, MD, MPH

#### Community Preceptors

Katie Barnhart, MSW

Charmaine Sudler Milligan



*BTG understands what it means to meet communities where they are. Physicians must prioritize patient-centered communication to guide patients through difficult events. My experiences at Puentes de Salud taught me to listen to patients intently. As a physician, I hope to advocate for and with patients who traverse through social stigmas, including socioeconomic status, language barriers, mental illness, and/or substance abuse. I hope to improve all my future patients' health by acknowledging these factors and considering how they may impact health outcomes.*

#### Brittany Chavez

Thomas Jefferson University  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

*There are so many articles and presentations about social determinants of health, but I was on the front line talking to families currently facing these struggles and deterrents to their health. We can't live healthy lives without healthy communities.*

#### Josh Somers

Temple University  
Lewis Katz School of Medicine

### THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

#### Program Staff and Faculty

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS, *Program Director*

George P. Valko, MD

#### Academic Preceptors

Amanda Lyons, MS, OTD, OTR/L

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS

Mary M. Hess, PharmD, FASHP, FCCM, FCCP, BCCCP

#### Community Preceptors

Gwendolyn Bailey, LSW

Mary Ellen Bolden, BSW

Barbara Coleman, MS

Kara Friesen, MA

Jenna Gosnay, MSW, LSW

Andrew Gudzelak

Zakiyyah Harris

Christina Kubica, MSW, LSW

Karen Minyety

Shauntay Murray, MHA, CLC

Shawna Murray

Betsy Neiva, PhD

Julie Nelson, BS

Eric Paulukonis

### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### Program Staff

Ellen Martinak, MS, *Program Director*

Louis M. Bell, Jr., MD

Hillary Bogner, MD, MSCE

Zvi D. Gellis, PhD

Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP

Bridget McCormick, MS

Ann L. O'Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP

Christopher Renjilian, MD

Lucy Wolf Tuton, PhD

Brittany Watson, VMD, PhD, MS, DACVPM

#### Academic Preceptors

Hillary Bogner, MD, MSCE

Zvi D. Gellis, PhD

Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP

Ann L. O'Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP  
Christopher B. Renjilian, MD  
Brittany Watson, VMD, PhD, MS, DACVPM

#### Community Preceptors

Mark Atwood

Laura Boyd, MSW, LSW

Beverly Bradley

Danny Burke

Brad Cary

Lauren Chappel, PhD

Ben Cocchiario, MD, MPH

Julie Conway, SLPD, CCC-SLP, ATP

Adrian Glass Crafford, MPH

Mario Cruz, MD

Amy Eckendorf, MSW

Amber Fields, SFW

Teresa Giardina, BSEd

Tyrique Glasgow

Adrienne Harmon

Stephanie Haynes

Jule Anne Henstenburg, PhD, RD, LDN, FAND

Tyler Holmberg

Frances Hoover, BS, MBA

Mercy Howard, BA

Denise Johnson, MSW

Traci Kennedy, MPA

Lauren Kobylarz

Margaret Lowenstein, MD, MSHP

Colleen McCauley, RN, BSN, MPH

Nya McGlone, MS

Lynette Medley, MEd

Ed Miller

Betsy Neiva, PhD

Cait O'Donnell, MSW

Daphne Owen, MD

Molly Pisciotano, MHA

Leah Reisman, PhD

Michelle Shuler

Anthony Singleton

Lydia Sit, MD

Melissa Heinlein Storti, PhD, CAVS

Lorraine Thomas



## Philadelphia Community Partners

12Plus  
 African Family Health Organization  
 American Heart Association  
 American Lung Association  
 Beyond Literacy  
 Broad Street Ministry  
 CCIU - Migrant Education Program  
 Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)  
 Center for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
 Center for the Urban Child, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
 Centro Nueva Creación  
 Children First (Formerly PCCY)  
 Children's Health Watch, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Center for the Urban Child  
 Collaborative Primary Care Clinic, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
 Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
 Covenant House Pennsylvania  
 Depaul USA, Philadelphia  
 Dream Camp Philadelphia  
 Educators 4 Education  
 Food Moxie  
 Frankie's World  
 Gaudenzia, Inc.  
 Hall Mercer, Community Behavioral Health Center  
 HIAS and Council Migration Services Philadelphia  
 Hispanic Association of Contractors and Enterprises (HACE)  
 HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy  
 Impact Services  
 Legacy Youth Tennis and Education  
 MANNA  
 Maternity Care Coalition, Cribs for Kids Program  
 Mazzone Center  
 Mercy Neighborhood Ministries  
 Mural Arts Philadelphia – Porch Light  
 Nationalities Service Center  
 No More Secrets, Mind Body Spirit Inc.  
 North Light Community Center  
 Northern Children's Services  
 Old Pine Community Center  
 Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Ambulatory Health Services  
 Philadelphia Family Pride  
 Philadelphia FIGHT Pediatric and Adolescent Health Center  
 Philadelphia Futures  
 Philadelphia Senior Center Arts Branch  
 Prevention Point Philadelphia  
 Programs Employing People  
 Puentes de Salud  
 Red Shield Family Residence at Salvation Army  
 Sankofa Community Farm at Bartram's Garden  
 Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse  
 Southwest Community Development Corporation  
 St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Summer Meals Program and CAP4Kids  
 Students Run Philly Style  
 To Our Children's Future With Health (TOCFWH)  
 Together for West Philadelphia / RISE Philadelphia / Main Line Health  
 Unitarian Universalist House (UUh) Outreach Program  
 Visitation Homes  
 William Way LGBT Community Center  
 Wyss Wellness Center  
 Young Chances Foundation  
 Youth Emergency Service (YES)

”

*As someone who did not grow up in the United States, I didn't have a strong background in American history, government, and policymaking. To me, the challenging topics and conversations we had on Wednesdays were eye-opening and enlightening, providing me with different perspectives on healthcare and our society. Similarly, after reading the book, I realized how much more I still didn't know. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, as it sparked my interest in reading more to understand the history and future of various social issues in the country.*

### **Qinyuan Doris Chen**

University of Pennsylvania,  
School of Dental Medicine

*How I view community organizations will never be the same. I strive to be extremely intentional about if I am being helpful or if I am only doing the work to make myself feel better and advance my career.*

### **Alicia Selvera**

University of Pennsylvania  
Perelman School of Medicine

*I learned about how health changes and access to healthcare can truly alter one's life. I learned about the heartbreak of the experience that comes with health changes and the process of seeking answers to understand health conditions. I was honored to hear a glimpse of the resident's life, and I have nothing but respect and admiration for the journey she has been on.*

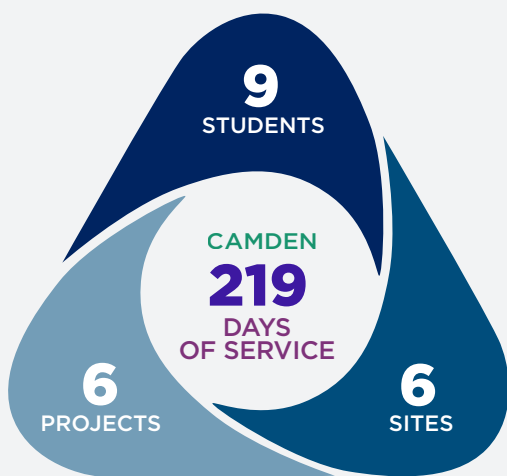
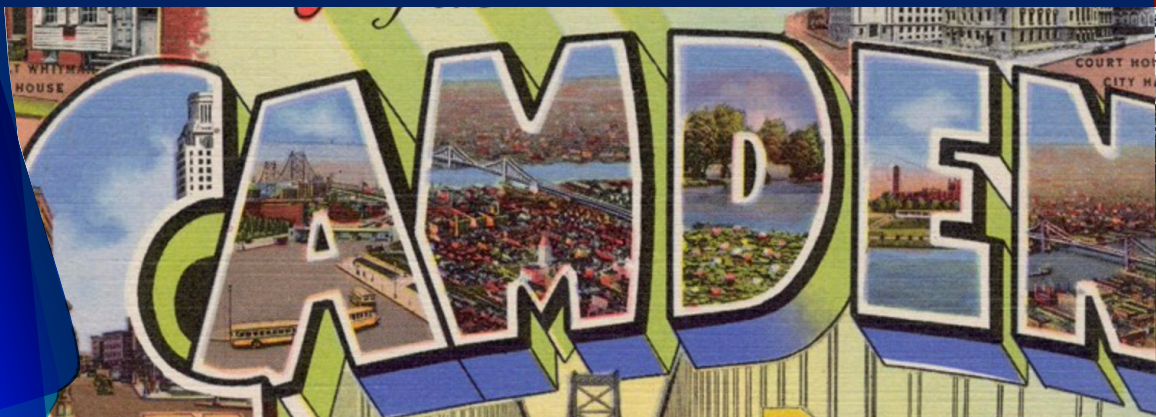
### **Sara Mathai**

Thomas Jefferson University  
College of Rehabilitation Sciences

*What also stood out was all the amazing people on the same team as these patients, helping to establish these victories, all without judging, always with patience, and always out of selflessness. Though it may seem our society has a lot of work to do, it always gives me hope that there are groups of people like this in Philadelphia, and all over the country, remembering to help those that society tries to forget. ... As I begin caring for patients [I hope to] make sure that I never forget either.*

### **Sixtus Akinlosotu**

Drexel University  
College of Medicine  
BTG Community Health Scholar



\* The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.

## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Cardiovascular health
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diet and nutrition
- HIV/AIDS
- Homelessness/housing
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Sexual questions/issues
- STDs
- Substance use
- Transportation
- Women's health

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Clinical care
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Development or administration of surveys
- Direct service delivery
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Oral health activities
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics
- Social service intervention



*I have learned numerous lessons that will shape the rest of my time as a student and future physician. I have seen the significance of integrating myself into the community that I serve while simultaneously having the humility to recognize that I need to rely on the expertise of others. I have seen ... the power of a small 10-minute conversation to build a connection. I leave ... with an aspiration to contribute to the betterment of this city and its people.*

**Megha Andrews**  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

### Program Staff and Faculty

Mara Gordon, MD, *Program Director*  
Anthony Rostain, MD, *Program Director*

### Academic Preceptors

Rosanna Eang, DO  
Mara Gordon, MD  
Jessica Horvath-Matthews, MD



*Nearly every public health paper I have read has professed that factors such as race, income, and education are just as impactful in predicting health status as genetics or prescriptions. My experiences ... put faces to that data. The guests experiencing homelessness ... [inhabit] a socioeconomic climate that exacerbates their ability to access adequate healthcare. These interactions reinforced my conviction that medicine ... can bridge the gap between a patient's unique circumstance and the physician's medical expertise.*

**Amir Davoodi**  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Daniel Hyman, DO  
Behjath Jafry, MD  
Esther Malave, MD  
Danielle S. Nordone, DO  
Anthony Rostain, MD  
Thomas J. Wall, MD

### Community Preceptors

Michelle Aydniec, BSN, RN  
Teresa Casañas  
Martha Chavis  
Mouy Eng K. Van Galen  
Dayna Fondell, MSN, RN  
Megan Lepore  
Barbara May, RN, MPH  
Jameka McGraw-Byrd  
Brandy Mullin  
Joye Rozier  
Shawn Sheekey

### Community Partners

Catholic Partnership Schools  
Camden Area Health Education Center (AHEC)  
Camden Coalition  
Center For Family Services  
Joseph's House of Camden  
Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC)



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

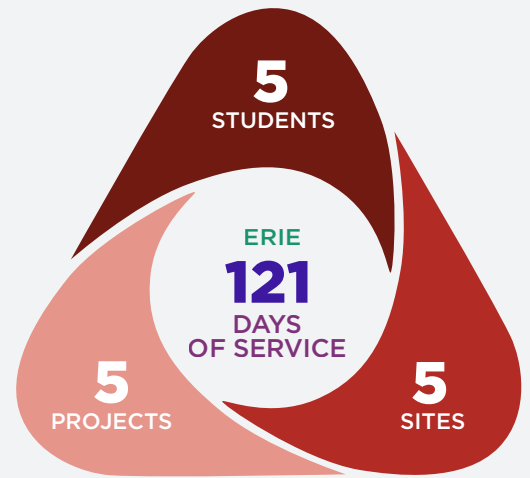
## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Budgeting/personal finances
- Cardiovascular health
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diabetes
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Physical disability

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Clinical care for a health problem
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Health-related client education
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Oral health activities
- Direct service delivery
- Development or administration of surveys
- Health status tracking
- Research on health/social/environmental topics

\* The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.



## Program Staff and Faculty

Leah Labranche, PhD,  
Program Director

Noelle R. Thielman, PhD

## Academic Preceptors

Colleen Cole-Jeffrey, PhD

Christopher Keller, PhD

Randy J. Kulesza, PhD

Jack Lee, PhD

Noelle Thielman, PhD

## Community Preceptors

Ryan DiDomenico, NHA

Jeffrey Glass, RN

Danielle Lesik, MA, MT-BC, NCC

Jennifer Musone, PCHA

Hannah Perrin, RN

## Community Partners

Brevillier Village

LECOM Health Nursing and  
Rehabilitation Center

LECOM Senior Living Center

”

*I gained so much knowledge and experience. I have learned about the geriatric population, the diseases and conditions that affect them, and how to communicate with them effectively and empathetically. I have also come to realize the vast diversity in the population that is taken care of within nursing homes, whether they be there for short-term rehabilitation or long-term skilled nursing care. Overall, I am absolutely grateful for the experience.*

### Rachel Leone

Lake Erie College  
of Osteopathic Medicine

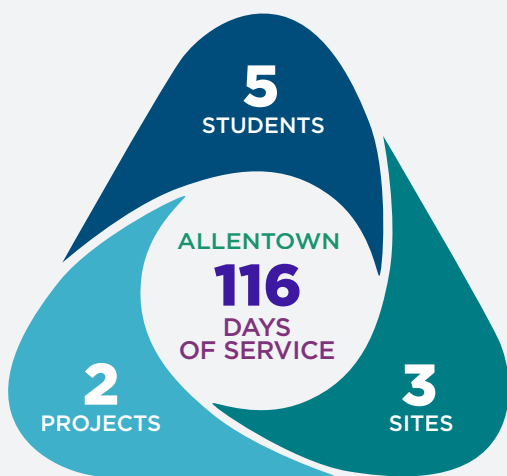
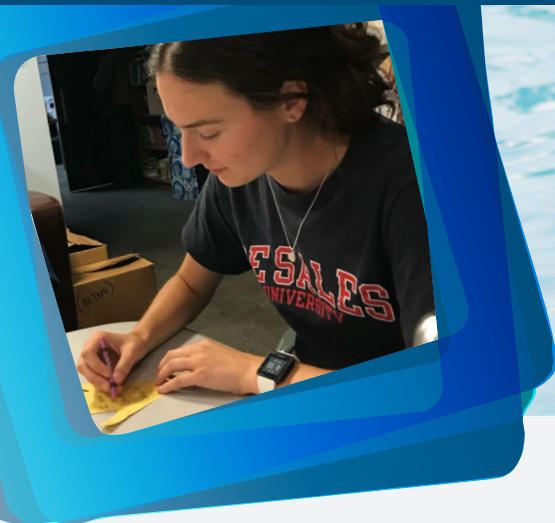
Millcreek Community Hospital  
Behavioral Health  
Regency at South Shore

”

*My summer ... allowed me to be a part of the care of psychiatric adolescents and children in a way I don't think I would have experienced if not for Bridging the Gaps. I got to spend time with each patient in a capacity that was not strictly medical, which gave me the chance to get to genuinely know each patient beyond the scope of their diagnosis and history. Coming up with the project and implementing it allowed me to connect with the patients and just really drove home the point that at the end of the day, they are still kids, and they want to have fun and be happy despite the challenges they're facing.*

### Mieng Nguyen

Lake Erie College  
of Osteopathic Medicine



### PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

- Nursing
- Medicine
- Physician Assistant

### COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Cardiovascular health
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Environmental health
- Homelessness/housing
- Mental health
- Oral health
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Substance use
- Violence

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Development or administration of surveys
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Literacy activities
- Oral health activities
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics

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*I chose to spend my summer working with BTG after seeing the disconnect between educators and the communities they serve, while I worked as a high school teacher for a few years in Baltimore. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and during my first year of medical school, I witnessed similar, nonproductive relationships between healthcare professionals and community members, which motivated me to break the cycle. We learned how to make collaborative decisions with community members, rather than prescribing solutions for them, leaning into culturally responsive modes of communication. In doing so, we learned about what the wants and needs are for our clinic. As future physicians, we learned more about how to engage underserved populations that can often be stigmatized.*

**Saran Taj Singh**  
Temple University  
Lewis Katz School of Medicine

### Participating Institutions

DeSales University  
Moravian University  
Temple University

### Program Staff and Faculty

Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC,  
Program Director  
Abby Letcher, MD

### Academic Preceptors

Abby Letcher, MD  
Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC  
Rajika Reed, PhD, MPH, MEd  
Katey Ruppert, BS  
Whitney Szmodis, PhD, MEd

### Community Preceptors

Brianna Aletras-Dunn, CRS  
Tina Amato, MS, LDN, RD  
Hasshan Batts, DHSc, MSW

Robin Chontos, CRS  
Jeani Garcia  
Lyric Isaac

### Community Partners

Alliance Hall, Summer Recreation Program  
Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley (PNLV)  
St. Luke's University Health Network



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

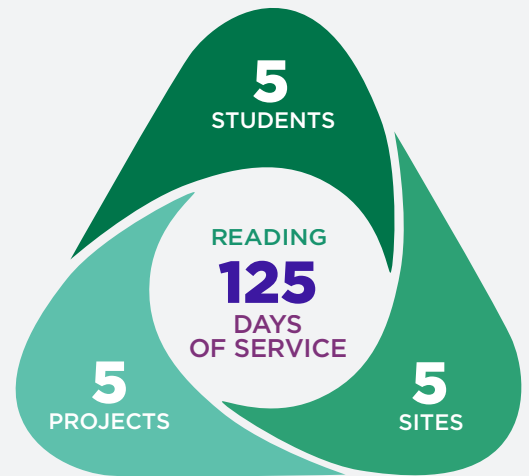
## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Asthma
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular health
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Computer literacy
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diabetes
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- HIV/AIDS
- Homelessness/housing
- Immigrant issues
- Immunization
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Physical disability

- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Substance use
- Transportation
- Violence

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Clinical care
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Direct service delivery
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Health screening
- Health status tracking
- Immunization
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Medical interpretation
- Research on health/social/environmental topics
- Social service intervention



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## Participating Institution

Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health

## Program Staff and Faculty

Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP  
Program Director

## Academic Preceptor

Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP

## Community Preceptors

Debbi Boone  
Jamie Chmielewski, COTA/L  
Mairead Desmond  
Frank Grill  
Sue Krall  
Jeff Laylon  
Mihaela Pendor, CRNP



*I was exposed to so many aspects of social services that impact health and address areas such as food insecurity, access to healthcare, homelessness, transportation, and language barriers. Seeing firsthand how [basic] needs can take precedence over the need to fill a prescription or go to a doctor's appointment gave me further insight about how I, as a future medical provider, can better understand how to care for this population.*

### Priscilla Lozano

Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health

Virgen (Jeannie) Rubero  
Ineavelle Ruizm  
Michael Toledo



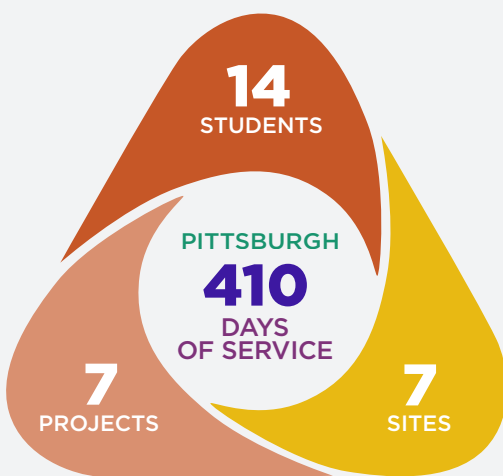
*I had worked with homeless folks in the past, but [this] ... opened my eyes to some of the specific struggles of the Reading community and gave me ample opportunity to listen to the residents' stories. ... I am grateful that I had the ability to partner with and deliver personable medical attention to the residents.*

### John LeMoine

Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health

## Community Partners

Centro Hispano (Hispanic Center) of Reading and Berks County, PA  
Hope Rescue Mission  
New Directions Treatment Services  
New Journey Community Outreach  
Olivet Boys & Girls Club of Reading, PA



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Public health
- Social work

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Oral Health
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Substance use
- Transportation
- Violence

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Development or administration of surveys
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics
- Teaching living skills

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*I learned a lot about community health, mental health, and what it takes to run an organization. My classes have always focused on the medical model for the treatment of mental illness. It was good to see the social aspect of mental health recovery in action, and I saw what a difference it made to the members to be a part of a community with so much support.*

### Nivitha Periyapatna

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Public Health

*I learned firsthand a wealth of knowledge about underserved populations and the structural/societal barriers that they face as well as the ways I can work to break them down. I aspire to carry the lessons from our clients, mentors, and the other interns with me into my future career work, and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity.*

### Arvin Sequeira

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Pharmacy

## Program Staff and Faculty

Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA,  
*Program Director*

Brandi Boak, BS  
Alda Gonzaga, MD, MS

## Academic Preceptors

Betty Braxter, PhD, CNM, RN, FAAN  
Thuy D. Bui, MD

Sharon Connor, PharmD  
John Stewart Maier, MD  
Nina Markovic, PhD, MS  
Martha A. Terry, MA, PhD  
Jamie Zelazny, PHD, MPH, RN

## Community Preceptors

Maureen Anderson, EdD  
Richard Carrington  
Danielle Chaykowsky  
Sarah Crawshaw, MEd

Jasmine Davis, BS  
Julia Donnelly, MPH  
Debbie Gallagher, MEd  
Allison Haley, LCSW  
Jim Paolicelli  
Margot Russell, MEd  
Donna Smith, MPM  
Karen Upsher-Williams, MSW

## Community Partners

Center of Life  
Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC EHS),  
Early Head Start  
Peoples Oakland  
Reimagine Reentry  
Sojourner House  
Voices Against Violence  
Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

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Federal Work-Study Program

**Philadelphia**

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Federal Work-Study Program

Zvi Gellis

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Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Mic Weeks

**Pittsburgh**

Anonymous

Anonymous SPH faculty

Martha A. Terry, MA, PhD

**Reading**

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United Way of Berks County

\* List in alphabetical order and may not include all sources of support.

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Center for Humanism

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Physician Assistant Program

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**Drexel University**

College of Medicine

Dean's Office

Department of Educational Affairs

Department of Medicine

College of Nursing and Health Professions

Dornsife School of Public Health

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Thomas R. Kline School of Law

**Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine**

**Lehigh Valley Health Network**

**Moravian University**

The Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing and Public Health

**Temple University**

Lewis Katz School of Medicine

Center for Urban Bioethics

Office of Student Support

Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

**Thomas Jefferson University**

Sydney Kimmel Medical College

Dean's Office

Department of Community and Family Medicine

Jefferson College of Nursing

Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences

Department of Occupational Therapy

Jefferson School of Population Health

**University of Pennsylvania**

Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Perelman School of Medicine

School of Dental Medicine

School of Nursing

School of Social Policy & Practice

School of Veterinary Medicine

**University of Pittsburgh**

Graduate School of Public Health

School of Nursing

School of Social Work

School of Pharmacy

School of Dental Medicine

