

Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy - 2021 Summer Interns

Research



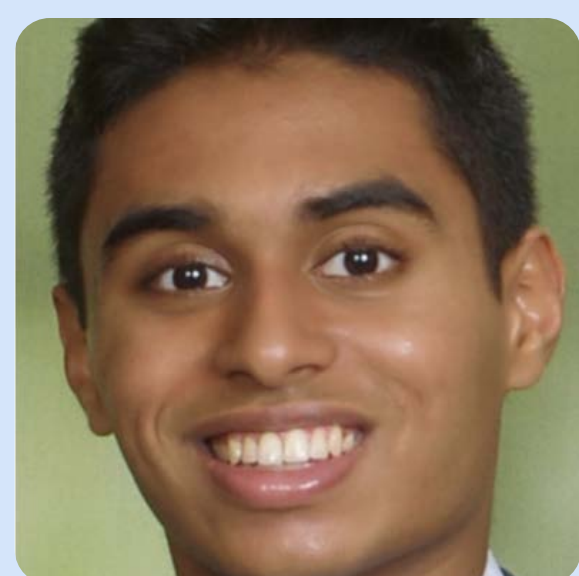
Caroline Beit is currently a sophomore at Yale University where she is studying History of Science and Medicine on the Premed track. She is a volunteer EMT, researcher with the Yale Health Justice Lab, and member of the Human Subjects Committee, a social science IRB. She is also an alumna of the Yale Summer Bioethics institute. This summer she will be a research intern with the Baylor Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy.

Mentor: Christi Guerrini, Amy McGuire



Kavyaa Choudhary is a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, where she majors in Plan II Honors and Cellular and Molecular Biology. She is interested in improving equitable access to healthcare in her community. With this goal in mind, she has conducted qualitative research examining access issues for undocumented Hispanic immigrants undergoing treatment for end stage kidney disease, and has worked as a legislative aide in the Texas Capitol to examine policy solutions. This summer, she is excited to dive into nuanced study, examining the intersection of population research and legislative applications. In her free time, Kavyaa enjoys reading, painting, and hiking in the Austin greenbelt where she grew up.

Mentor: Amy McGuire, Amanda Gutierrez



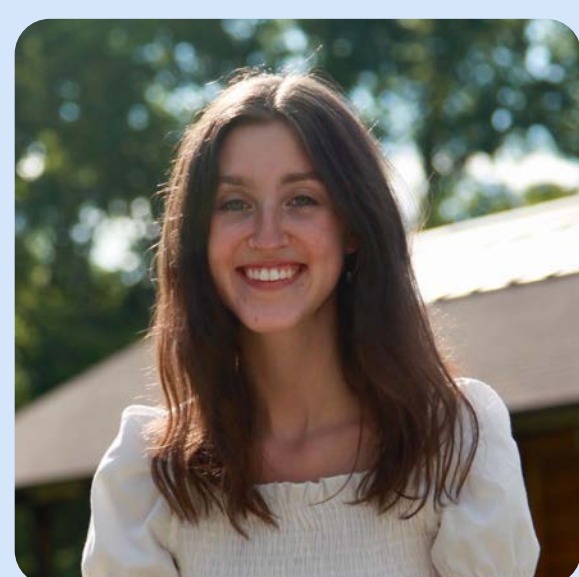
Benjamin Eappen is a junior at University of Texas - Austin. He is a Biochemistry Major and Religious Studies minor. He has always been fascinated with how we derive inherent meaning from a clump of cells. Both his major and minor have taught him about the interaction between how science and philosophy produce some semblance of meaning for individuals. He loves to play basketball to relax after a stressful day. Before the pandemic, it was how he spent most of my free time trying to meet new people. He also enjoys playing the violin.

Mentor: Gabriel Lázaro-Muñoz, Jennifer Blumenthal-Barby, Eric Storch



Pranav Bommekal is a rising freshman at UH Honors on the pre-med track. He is passionate about community service and public health, especially applying medical ethics to underrepresented minorities. With much curiosity, he is joining the ethics team to nurture his interest and to learn more.

Mentor: Christi Guerrini



Meghan Hurley is a graduating senior at Emory University studying Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and German Studies and will be pursuing a Master of Arts in Bioethics in the fall. Her research interests include neuroethics, emerging neurotechnologies, and bioethics, science, and technology law and policy. As an undergraduate at Emory, Meghan's honors research focused on the moral status of artificial intelligence (AI), the public perception of AI and moral agency, and the social and legal implications of granting AI moral status. She is ecstatic to continue this exploration of the ethical implications of neurotechnologies and the use of AI in Dr. Lázaro-Muñoz's neuroethics-focused lab this summer, and hopes to expand her research to cover legal implications after pursuing law school.

Mentor: Gabriel Lázaro-Muñoz



Sudhanvan Iyer is a Junior at the University of Texas at Austin where he is majoring in Neuroscience with a concentration in the behaviors and cultures of a healthcare system. Sudhanvan's interest in neuroscience grew when he had the opportunity to intern at a lab focused on studying retinal cell regeneration. He hopes to gain more experience in healthcare policy as well as learn more about the application of clinical ethics. Sudhanvan aspires to pursue a career in medicine. In his free time, he enjoys learning, cooking, and playing intramural sports.

Mentor: Amy McGuire



Midhat Jafry is a sophomore pursuing her Bachelors of Science degree in Biology and Liberal Studies at the University of Houston. As the founder of the first homeless-based service organization at her university, Midhat is deeply interested in aiding underserved communities with a goal of improving community health. In addition to community service, Midhat is also passionate about research, specifically relating to health disparities and medical ethics. In her free time, Midhat enjoys reading books, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends. Her passion in improving the health related quality of life of her community and her multifaceted interests have motivated Midhat to pursue a career in both medicine and research.

Mentor: Jennifer Blumenthal-Barby



Folasade Lapite is a rising MS2 at Tulane University School of Medicine. Before returning to her home state (LA), Folasade spent the last five years in Philadelphia, PA. In those 5 years she completed both her Bachelor of Arts in Health and Societies and Masters of Bioethics. During the majority of her time in Philadelphia, she competed in Synchronized Swimming, volunteered in Hospice/Palliative Care, and conducted independent theses research pertaining to menstrual education in the American society. Folasade is passionate about bioethics, health equity, social justices, and "humanizing medicine."

Mentor: Faith Fletcher



Bamlak Messay is a philosophy and neuroscience double major at Dartmouth College. She aspires to work in either research or policy in the field of neuroethics specifically in issues concerning consciousness and autonomy. In addition, she plans on attending medical school to continue her research interests in Alzheimer's and glioblastoma

Mentor: Jennifer Blumenthal-Barby



Lilly Snellman just graduated from Rice University with degrees in Religion and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She is an alumna of the Rice-Baylor College of Medicine Health, Humanism, and Society Scholars Program, where she studied ethical issues regarding pediatric deep brain stimulation. At Rice, she was involved with the Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees (PAIR) and hopes to attend medical school in the future.

Mentor: Jennifer Blumenthal-Barby, Gabriel Lázaro-Muñoz, Eric Storch



Alexandra Tsalidis is currently a law student at the University of Cambridge. Her areas of interest include product liability, medical malpractice and the relationship between technology and ethics.

Mentor: Kristin Kostick

Research Administration



Sanjana Shah is a rising senior majoring in finance and minoring in management information systems at The University of Texas at Austin. She is a passionate advocate for optimizing the delivery of healthcare, especially for marginalized populations, using data analytics, health policy, and a reimagined approach to medicine. Her long term interests lie within the field of hospital administration.

Mentor: Meredith Trejo

Clinical Ethics



Salvadore Fernandez is a senior undergraduate student at Texas A&M University. He is pursuing a dual Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Genetics. Outside of his studies, Salvador conducts bioinorganic research in the Lindahl lab at TAMU Chemistry. Additionally, he works as a writing and speaking consultant for the TAMU Writing Center and volunteers for the Texas A&M HelpLine. Salvador is an active member and leader of the Texas A&M Bioethics Forum, an on-campus organization dedicated to promoting the discussion of controversial ethical issues in science and medicine. After finishing his degrees, Salvador plans to pursue graduate school in bioethics and ultimately work as a clinical ethicist. This summer, he will be assisting Dr. Janet Malek in researching a physician's role in situations where ethics and the law collide, including the role of a clinical ethics consultant during these situations.

Mentor: Janet Malek, Claire Horner



Mia Romero is a rising junior at Saint Louis University in Missouri. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Bioethics and Health Studies and a minor in Spanish. During her time in St. Louis, she volunteers as a Spanish tutor, helps run SLU's Undergraduate Bioethics Club, and serves as a Liturgical Minister at her University's local parish. Mia is passionate about bioethics, the philosophy of human nature, moral psychology, catholic healthcare ethics, and clinical ethics.

Mentor: Janet Malek, Claire Horner



Joshua Smith is a PhD candidate in philosophy at Rice University. Joshua's research interest in bioethics are centered around two foci: philosophy of human nature and value theory. Related to the first, his research has examined the moral status of patients with lower levels of consciousness, particularly PVS patients; related to the second, the grounding of moral values and their justification in moral reasoning. Joshua has a BA in philosophy of religion, an MA in philosophy of religion, and a second MA in philosophy. Joshua is an academic member of the American Philosophical Association, the Society of Christian Philosophers, and the Evangelical Philosophical Association. Joshua is married to Catie and is blessed with two children.

Mentor: Janet Malek, Claire Horner

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