



# Bridging the Gaps

2023 Health Action Report



Combining health-related service for under-resourced populations  
with community-responsive training of future health and social service professionals

# About BTG

## 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 33rd program year, we are humbled and grateful for the many people and

organizations at the heart of Bridging the Gaps.

With over 6,200 alumni and more than 600 past and present community partners, BTG remains invested in the development of future health and social service professionals, while simultaneously offering additional staffing to organizations who serve the most vulnerable. As the needs around us continue to shift and deepen, BTG strives to remain agile and focused on creating a more equitable world.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful work.

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

## BTG Network

### PHILADELPHIA CONSORTIUM

**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

**Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP**  
Drexel University

**Laura Mullin, MS**  
Drexel University

**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

**Tricia Bernecker, PhD, RN**  
DeSales University  
*BTG Program Director*

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

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

### UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

**Brandi Boak, MPH**  
University of Pittsburgh

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



# About BTG

## BTG 2022-23 Advisory Board

**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**  
*Emeritus Professor*  
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

**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 Organizer*

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

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



## BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN)

The BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN) provides opportunities for collaboration and mentorship among former student participants. [Join Today!](#)

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

BTGAN is a lifelong opportunity for collaboration, mentorship, and fellowship. We continue to grow our platform, highlighting inclusion, diversity, and equity.

This year has been productive and enriching. As a collective, we launched our mutual mentorship pilot; participated in the BTG

retreat; expanded our speaker series; increased our LinkedIn presence; conducted a marketing brainstorming workshop; added a BTGAN liaison position; and focused on increasing our intergenerational and interdisciplinary connectivity, with roots in the community. Now more than ever, we need healthcare providers with a strong social justice orientation. Being that kind of 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 continued progress, as we explore how alumni can benefit from the exceptional human capital that is BTG.

Warmly,  
The BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN)

### BTG Alumni Network Co-Chairs



Marjorie  
Dejoie-Brewer, MD  
BTG CHIP 1993



Jennifer  
Comerford, MJ, OTR/L  
BTG CHIP 1997



Roopali  
Kulkarni, DMD, MPH  
BTG CHIP 2016

# About BTG

## 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 prevalence and 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 2023 [students created robust educational resources](#) on these topics.



## BTG 2023 TO DATE FACTS & FIGURES

### CHIP TO-DATE

#### 643 Community Sites Served

since inception

<b>438</b> Philadelphia	<b>75</b> Erie	<b>13</b> Lehigh Valley	<b>40</b> New Jersey
<b>67</b> Pittsburgh	<b>9</b> Reading	<b>3</b> Other Locations	

#### 6,259 Students Participated

since inception

<b>4,997</b> Philadelphia	<b>446</b> Erie	<b>116</b> Lehigh Valley	<b>201</b> New Jersey
<b>476</b> Pittsburgh	<b>14</b> Reading	<b>9</b> Other Locations	

#### 135,580 Days of Service Provided

from 2000-2023

<b>102,066</b> Philadelphia	<b>11,975</b> Erie	<b>3,036</b> Lehigh Valley	<b>5,284</b> New Jersey
<b>12,632</b> Pittsburgh	<b>345</b> Reading	<b>242</b> Other Locations	

### OTHER PROGRAMS TO-DATE

#### BTG Seminar Series

Fall 2003 - Spring 2023

#### 2,877 Students

Attended at least one seminar; some attended multiple seminars

#### BTG Community Health Rotation Program

Fall 2003 - Spring 2023

#### 384 Students

Completed the Community Health Rotation Program

#### BTG Community Health Scholars

Fall 2006 - Spring 2023

#### 235 Students

Graduated as Community Health Scholars

# About BTG

## BTG Program Components (continued)

### Other Programs (Philadelphia Only)

#### BTG Seminar Series

This 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. For many of these seminars, BTG now offers continuing education credits for alumni, community and academic partners, and others.

#### 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

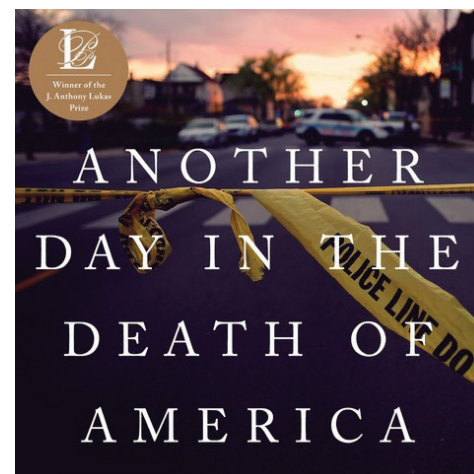
Students who complete the BTG CHIP, Seminar Series, and Community Health Rotation Program graduate as BTG Community Health Scholars.

### 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 choice (audio, video, painting, drawing, writing, etc.) to represent the story. (See [the student project summaries](#).)

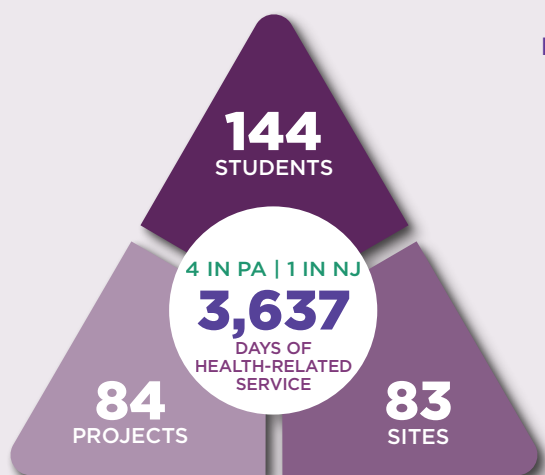
### The 33rd Annual Symposium



BTG held a [virtual symposium](#) on October 19, 2023, including Storytelling Project highlights, a message from BTG alumni, and an interactive poster session. **Gary Younge** received the 2023 BTG award and delivered the keynote speech. Mr. Younge is a writer, broadcaster, and professor of sociology at the University of Manchester. His book, *Another Day in the Death of America: A Chronicle of Ten Short Lives*, served as the central text for BTG in 2023.

## BTG 2023 FACTS & FIGURES

### CHIP 2023



#### Professional Disciplines

- Creative arts in therapy
- Dental medicine
- Health and rehab sciences
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Public health
- Social work
- Veterinary medicine

### OTHER 2023

#### BTG Seminar Series

**127**

**Students**

Attended at least one seminar

#### BTG Community Health Rotation Program

**22**

**Students**

Participated in the Community Health Rotation Program

#### BTG Community Health Scholars

**19**

**Students**

Graduated as Community Health Scholars



**PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES**

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

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES\***

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\***

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diet and nutrition
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Oral health
- Poverty



\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

**Philadelphia Program Participants**

**Participating Institutions†**

Drexel University  
 Temple University  
 Thomas Jefferson University  
 University of Pennsylvania

**Philadelphia Small Group Leaders**

Tariem Burroughs  
 Pat Dooley  
 Elissa Goldberg  
 Teresa Mendez-Quigley  
 Rayn Philips  
 Darcie Rudolf

Anthony Singleton  
 Sara Solomon  
 Nikki Thomas  
 Crystal Wortham

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

“ BTG interns help our program exponentially. Not only do they bridge the short-term gaps in staffing, etc., during busy times of year, but they also go out into the world and develop new programs that benefit our population, building on the foundation of knowledge they learn here. Their future advocacy for students with disabilities is an incredible benefit.

**Julie Conway**  
 HMS School for Children  
 with Cerebral Palsy

“ BTG has always been a valued partner, and the BTG interns have again played a vital role in our summer youth services. Having the support of the interns allows us to consistently provide educational, enriching, and entertaining summer programming for the youth and families we serve.

**Katie Barnhart**  
 Red Shield Family Residence  
 at Salvation Army

“ The BTG interns who have served Covenant House have expanded our resources and knowledge of organizations in the community. They continue to be resourceful and have afforded their own talents and gifts to meet our young people where they are. This has proven, time and again, to be instrumental in solidifying a trust relationship within the medical community. This has been inestimable.

**David O. Maddox II**  
 Covenant House Pennsylvania

# Philadelphia Consortium



## Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

### DREXEL UNIVERSITY

#### Program Staff and Faculty

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

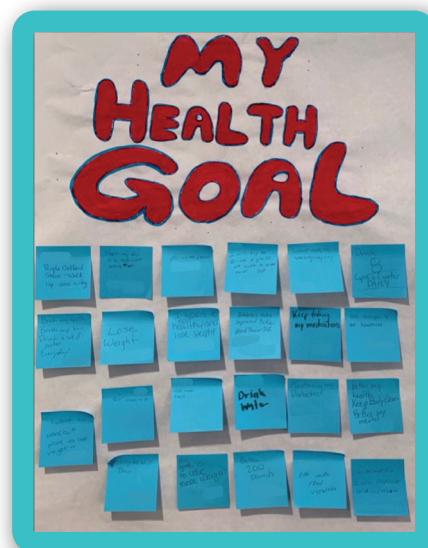
#### Academic Preceptors

James Buehler, MD  
 Tariem Burroughs, PhD  
 Charlene Chen, MD  
 Esther Chernak, MD, MPH, FACP  
 Annette B. Gadegbeku, MD  
 Jeremiah Goldstein, MD  
 Barbara Hogan-Zarro, PhD  
 Zach Kassutto, MD, FAAP  
 Angela Kim, MS, MD, FAAP  
 Renee Kottenhahn, MD  
 Steven Peitzman, MD, FACP  
 Kristen Ryczak, MD  
 Emily Spengler, MD  
 Daniel Taylor, DO, FAAP, FACOP  
 Kelley White, MD  
 Vincent J. Zarro, MD, PhD

#### Community Preceptors

Karisa Barlow  
 Nikki Brown, MSW  
 Daniel Ceva  
 Nicola D'Souza, MPH, LSW  
 Jonathan Deutsch, PhD, CRC, CHE  
 Patrycja Dziekonska, MPH  
 Dawn George, MS, PsyD  
 Rita Guevara, MD  
 Diane Hardie  
 Joni Helton  
 Wayne Ingram  
 Josh Irving

Geremi James, LSW, MSW  
 Debora King, MA, LPC, ATR-BC  
 Amos Koffa, MSW  
 Renee Kottenhahn, MD  
 Heather Kuzowsky  
 Conny Lockwood  
 Harry Louis  
 Chris Pender  
 Rayn Phillips, MSW, LSW  
 Sara Popkin, MSW, LSW  
 Brendan Sculley, MSW  
 Rachel Sherman  
 Emily Spengler, MD  
 Kathryn Stroup, MD  
 Daniel Taylor, DO  
 Kate Timer, MSW  
 Renee Turchi, MD, MPH, FAAP  
 Lori Walsh, MPPM  
 Kevin Weber, BA  
 Krista Wieder, MBA



“ I hope to work alongside social workers and other members of the healthcare team in order to be able to improve our society on a deeper level than just curing individuals’ illnesses alone. This type of interdisciplinary collaboration is the future of healthcare, and I hope to be a part of making that future better for all of us.

**Santiago Appiani**  
 Temple University  
 Lewis Katz Medical School

“ Connection is pivotal to building meaningful relationships with people. My BTG internship has increased my interest in working with vulnerable and/or economically disadvantaged populations. I can be a more effective social worker by practicing a strengths-based approach, being empathetic, and valuing people’s backgrounds and cultures.

**Sheba Daniel**  
 Temple University  
 School of Social Work

“ I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the youth and staff. [It] has allowed me to see firsthand the need for resources and dedicated individuals to help this population. I was glad to get to know the amazing kids this summer and the hardworking employees that help keep this program running. Prior to BTG, I thought that I would not be good at working with adolescents, but this opportunity has led me to want to pursue working in this area.

**Brooklyn Gabriel**  
 College of Population Health  
 Thomas Jefferson University

# Philadelphia Consortium

## Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

### TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

#### Program Staff and Faculty

Ingrid Mapanao, MSW, MPH  
*Program Director*  
Jerome Wright, BA  
*Program Director*  
Brian Work, MD, MPH

#### Academic Preceptors

Ingrid Mapanao, MSW, MPH  
Brian Work, MD, MPH  
Jerome Wright

#### Community Preceptors

Dana Barnes, LSW  
Katie Barnhart, MSW  
Alejandra Castano, MSW  
Meg Finley  
Deanna Handy  
Shirley Moy, MSW  
Cleo Smalls, MBA  
Charmaine Sudler-Milligan, MSW

**66** *This is one of the many lessons that I learned and will carry on with me into my career as a future physician: We are not here to save, but to support, connect with, listen, and serve those under our care as future healthcare providers. I'm so grateful for my experience as a BTG intern and all the invaluable lessons I will take with me throughout my life.*

#### Eveé Blake

University of Pennsylvania  
Perelman School of Medicine

**66** *BTG has greatly impacted the perspective of my future career as a physician. I have gained a myriad of new information, insight, and resources. My future will not just involve healing people but will most importantly be aligned with being the bridge to resources, from mental health services to housing services. My experiences this summer will challenge me to think outside the box in order to provide my future patients with options for a better, healthier, and happier quality of life.*

#### Rodaina Ahmed

Drexel University  
College of Medicine

### THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

#### Program Staff and Faculty

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS  
*Program Director*  
George P. Valko, MD

#### Academic Preceptor

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS

#### Community Preceptors

Lexy Chavez  
Kara Friesen  
Jenna Gosnay, MSW, LSW  
Andrew Gudzelak  
Zakiyyah Harris  
Christina Kubica, MSW, LSW  
Dustin Latimer, PA-C  
Tarae Morton  
Devon Taylor

### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### Program Staff and Faculty

Ellen Martinak, MS  
*Program Director*  
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

Mariana Argüelles, MSW  
Jaya Aysola, MD, MPH  
Beverly Bradley

Brad Cary  
Angelo Cirrincione  
Julie Conway, SLP  
Amy Eckendorf, LSW  
Kate Fox, DrPH(c), MPH  
Teresa Giardina, MSEd  
Stephanie Haynes  
Mercy Howard, BA  
Dorothy Johnson-Speight, PhD, MHS, LPC  
Traci Kennedy, MPA  
Rebecca Keuch, MSN, CRNP  
David Maddox, MSW  
Ana Bonilla Martinez  
Nya McGlone, MS  
Lynette Medley, MEd  
Ed Miller  
Yarelli Morales, MPH  
Jiana Murdic, MS  
Betsy Neiva, PhD  
Ieshia Nelson, MEd  
Steve Niederriter, MBA  
Nicole Sage  
Shaketa Sills  
Anthony Singleton  
Lorraine Thomas  
Dianne Uwayo, MPH





## Philadelphia Community Partners

12Plus  
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)  
American Heart Association  
Beyond Literacy (BeLit)  
Broad Street Ministry  
CCIU Migrant Education Program  
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)  
Center in the Park  
Children First  
Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Covenant House Pennsylvania  
Depaul USA, Philadelphia  
Drexel Food Lab  
Educators for Education (E4E)  
Einstein Immunodeficiency Center  
Einstein Pride Program  
Frankie's World Foundation  
Gaudenzia Philly House Women's Program  
Gaudenzia Together House Men's Program  
Get Fresh Daily  
Hall Mercer  
Heights Philadelphia  
HIAS and Council Migration Services of Philadelphia  
HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy  
Legacy Youth Tennis and Education  
Lenfest Center for Community Workforce Partnerships  
Lutheran Settlement House  
Mazzoni Center  
Mental Health Partnerships, The Well and A New Life  
Mothers in Charge, Inc.  
Nationalities Service Center  
No More Secrets:  
Mind Body Spirit Inc.  
North Light Community Center  
Northern Children's Services  
Philadelphia Department of Public Health Ambulatory Services  
Philadelphia Family Pride  
Philadelphia FIGHT: Youth Health Empowerment Program  
Prevention Point Philadelphia  
Programs Employing People  
Puentes de Salud  
Red Shield Family Residence at Salvation Army  
Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse  
Social Needs Response Team (SNRT) at Penn Medicine  
Southwest Community Development Corporation  
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
Center for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs  
Center for the Urban Child  
Center for the Urban Child, Collaborative Primary Care Clinic  
Summer Meals Program & CAP4KidsId  
Students Run Philly Style  
To Our Children's Future With Health  
Unitarian Universalist House (UUH) Outreach Program  
Visitation Homes  
William Way Community Center  
Wyss Wellness Center  
Youth Emergency Service (YES)

**“** *This rotation was easily my favorite during medical school. I formed meaningful connections with several students, making it the most rewarding and moving experience I have had thus far. ... [it] was unique because I usually encounter patients with chronic conditions in hospitals or clinics, at times when their bodies are most against them. However, this is not representative of the day to day for most of these individuals. [The experience] gave me a new appreciation for how patients with neurodevelopmental disorders function when their bodies are cooperating. This insight renewed my appreciation for the baseline of patients with chronic conditions.*

### Aisha Bosula

Drexel University  
BTG Community Health Scholar

**“** *My summer ... has been unlike anything that I have experienced before. I was very nervous and was not quite sure what to expect. As the summer progressed, however, I began to feel much more comfortable and confident interacting with children with cerebral palsy ... I was able to uncover new ways of becoming a better advocate for the special-needs population. Witnessing how far they have come has motivated me to continue in my pursuits for more accessible healthcare across all disciplines*

### Adeayo Adenusi

University of Pennsylvania  
School of Dental Medicine

**“** *I was intrigued upon hearing the ... challenges not only surrounding the [LGBTQ] community, but within it. I think this may be a reflection of the diversity of the LGBTQ community and the unique concerns that each person brings. I hope to continue engaging with queer individuals to gain new perspectives and deepen my understanding of their health needs.*

### Scott Orlov

Sidney Kimmel Medical College  
Thomas Jefferson University

**“** *My perception of interprofessional teamwork has been greatly affected through my BTG experience. Working with a medical student and a dance therapist, I was able to observe how many similarities there were between all of our disciplines. I enjoyed our topics of navigating efficient patient care, the healthcare infrastructure, and ways we can become better in our future professions. ... I enjoyed asking questions about how I could make medical jargon easier to understand ... and what dance techniques are good to start with as a behavior-change approach. I had a great time working with them.*

### Tahiyya Khan

Drexel University  
Dornsife School of Public Health



**PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE**

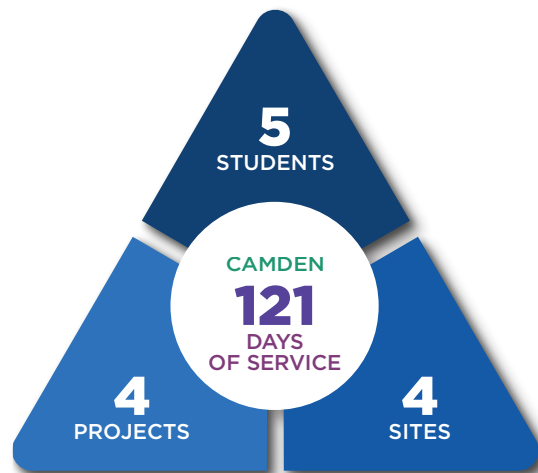
- Medicine

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES\***

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

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\***

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Cardiovascular health
- Childcare
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Environmental health
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Insurance/social services
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Sexual questions/issues
- STDs
- Substance use
- Teen pregnancy
- Transportation
- Women's health



*\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.*

**Program Staff and Faculty**

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

**Academic Preceptors**

Rosanna Eang, DO  
 Mara Gordon, MD  
 Anthony Rostain, MD, MA  
 Thomas J. Wall, MD

**Community Preceptors**

Helen Hannigan  
 Andre Lewellyn, MS  
 Sierra Parksm, MA, LAC  
 Joye Rozier, BSN, CSN, MPH  
 Mouy Eng K. Van Galen, LSSGB  
 Leigh Wilson-Hall, MSW, LSW

**Community Partners**

Camden Area Health Education Center (AHEC)  
 Camden Coalition  
 Center For Family Services  
 Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC)

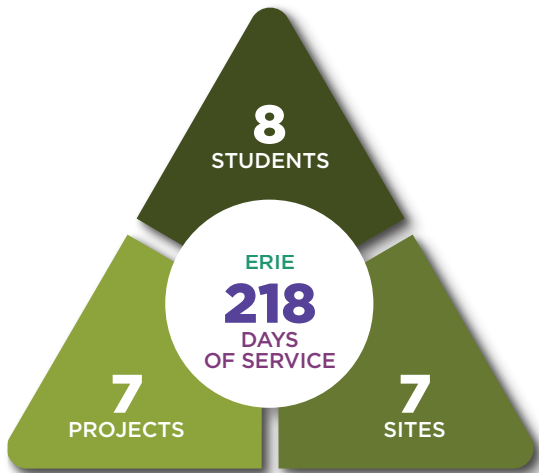
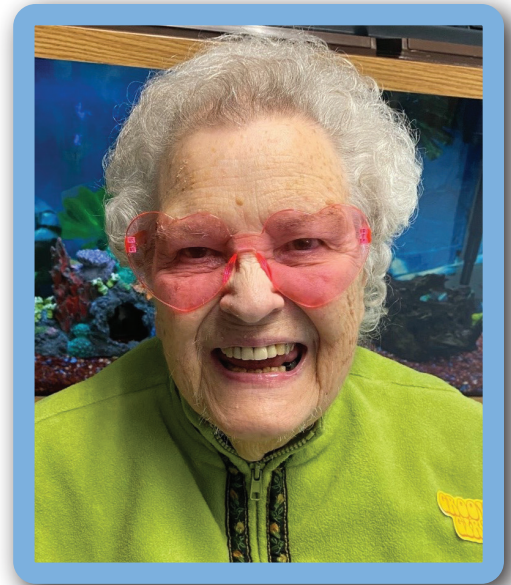
“ I feel the divide in my excessive graduate school vocabulary ... that I now fight to drop from speech, silently translating any thoughts phrased to lessen the chance of discomfoting or embarrassing a person who did not have the opportunity to attend college or finish high school. I observe. I listen. I try to find the needs to fill them.

**Karla Reid**  
 Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

“ I was unsure what to expect, but ... I can truly say it has changed the way I perceive community health. ... Building relationships with the clients showed me the value of longitudinal care and the importance of active listening in supporting someone as they face challenges. As I continue my journey with medicine, I aspire to care not only for the disease or condition but also the whole person.

**Priya Shah**  
 Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

# Lake Erie College Of Medicine (LECOM)



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Clinical care for a health problem
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Health-related client education
- Oral health activities
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Social service intervention

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Cardiovascular health
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diabetes
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Physical disability

\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this 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 Kulesza, PhD  
Leah Labranche, PhD  
Jack Lee, PhD  
Noelle Thielman, PhD  
Robert Waters, PhD

### Community Preceptors

Cynthia Bravo, BA  
Ryan DiDomenico, NHA  
Danielle Lesik, MA, LPC, MT-BH  
Michele Maughn, BSN, DON  
Jennifer Musone, PCHA  
Hannah Perrin, RN  
Jeffrey Stockhausen, NHA

### Community Partners

Barber National Institute  
Brevillier Village

LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation  
LECOM Senior Living Center  
Millcreek Community Hospital  
Behavioral Health  
Parkside Regency at South Shore  
Voices for Independence

**“** I genuinely believe that anyone going into healthcare should go through an experience like BTG. The intricacies of the health of seniors are like nothing else I have seen before, and being able to understand how their needs differ is a skill that needs to be developed through experience ... I was surprised to see the varying levels of mental acuity and physical ability; this made it very important to get to know everyone as individuals. I can't wait to continue building relationships with my future senior patients using the skills I have learned here.

**Kristin Keenan**  
Lake Erie College  
of Osteopathic Medicine

**“** My internship ... has helped me to understand the importance of patients having access to care for their mental health. I did not have much exposure to this field of medicine previously, but it impacts patients seen in every specialty. A child's early life experiences are going to remain with them their entire lives, and without access to mental healthcare, children may not ever be able to heal. I want to be a physician that is not afraid to discuss mental health issues with patients. Having access to care for one's mental health [not only] drastically improves a patient's quality of life but also the relationship with other parts of their overall health.

**Samantha Sitarz**  
Lake Erie College  
of Osteopathic Medicine



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

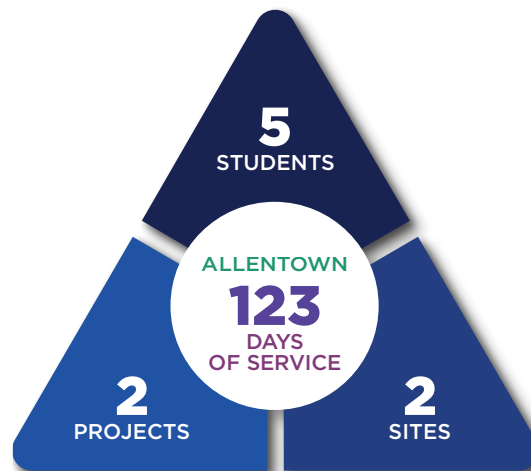
- Medicine
- Nursing

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

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

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Cardiovascular health
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Insurance/social services
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Violence
- Women's health



\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

## Program Staff and Faculty

Tricia Bernecker, PhD, RN  
Program Director

Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC  
Program Director

Abby Letcher, MD

## Academic Preceptors

Tricia Bernecker, PhD, RN

Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC

## Community Preceptors

Tina Amato, MS, RD, LDN

Hasshan Batts, DHSc, MSW

Jeani Garcia

Abby S. Letcher, MD

Laya Lopez

Andrea Wilson, DHSc, MEd

## Community Partners

Alliance Hall Summer Recreation Program

Casa Guadalupe

Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley (PNLV)

“ I have enjoyed forming connections with the staff and community members and learning from one another through interprofessional dialogues and community outreach. Learning about the community health needs has been rewarding, and I have enjoyed planning community events to educate on heart health, oral health, smoking cessation, and the Stop the Bleed event.”

**Rana Moawad**

Temple University  
Lew Katz School of Medicine

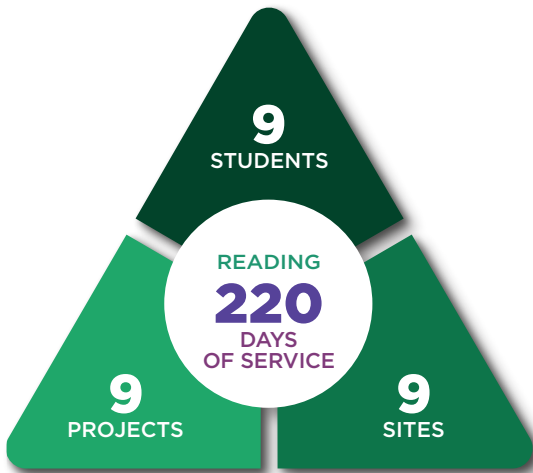
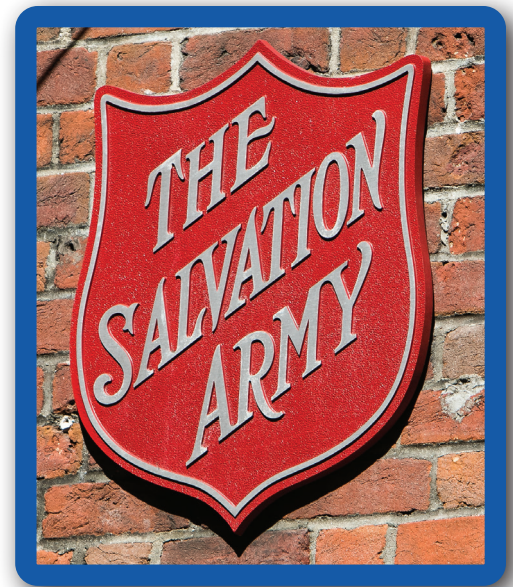
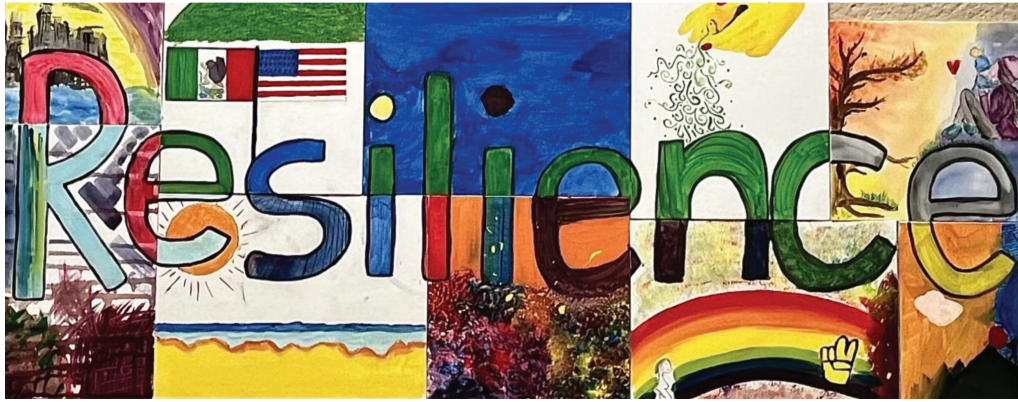
“ I've learned a lot about Allentown from working alongside and talking to my interviewee. [It] is a beautiful and diverse community where we can make connections, share stories and culture, and support one another with love. ... There are so many organizations and programs that are working to improve Allentown ... There are also so many opportunities to ... be part of the change that we want to see.”

**Kayliyah Forbes**

DeSales University  
School of Nursing



# Reading - Drexel University



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES\*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Social service intervention

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Computer literacy
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Immigrant issues
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Personal hygiene
- Poverty
- Transportation
- Violence

\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

### 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

Christie Botterbusch  
Santiago Castaneda  
Lieutenant Hector Cid  
Alexis Fick  
Amy Folk  
Christine Folk, RN  
Jafet Jamie  
Lieutenant Hyesoo Kim  
Jeff Laylon  
Lieutenant Melissa Lopez  
Lori Lowery  
April McNally  
Marianghy Paulino  
Aaron Rimeer

Virgen (Jeannie) Rubero

Ineavelle Ruizm

Michael Toledo

Rob Turchi

Jess Umbenhauer

### Community Partners

Centro Hispano Daniel Torres  
(Hispanic Center)

Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank

Hope Rescue Mission

LGBT Center of Greater Reading

Mary's Shelter

New Journey Community Outreach

Olivet Boys and Girls Club

The Salvation Army of Reading

“ BTG has helped me better understand the role a physician plays in helping a community to thrive. That may not always mean prescribing a medication or performing a surgery—it may mean making sure a person has resources to live, eat, and connect with people. ... When I am a physician, I hope to have knowledge of local resources that will help me keep my patients healthy.

#### Oliver Gibb

Drexel University  
College of Medicine at Tower Health

“ ... I learned a great deal about what goes on behind the scenes at a huge nonprofit organization. Addressing many of the gaps pertaining to the social determinants of health inevitably comes with administrative burden, and by taking that responsibility, we reduce the burden of that on smaller local partner organizations who are focused on getting food out to community members. Ultimately, this experience opened my eyes to the true interconnectedness of the many organizations in Berks County who are focused on providing support for community members.

#### Madhu Badri

Drexel University  
College of Medicine at Tower Health



**PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE**

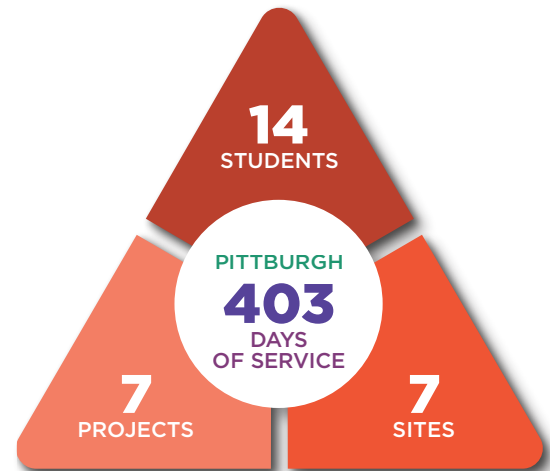
- Health and rehab sciences
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Public health

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES\***

- Assessing community resources
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Development or administration of surveys
- Health-related client education
- Literacy activities
- Oral health activities
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics
- Teaching living skills

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\***

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



*\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.*

**Program Staff and Faculty**

Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA,  
*Program Director*  
 Brandi Boak, MPH

**Academic Preceptors**

Betty Braxter, PhD, CNM, RN, FAAN  
 Thuy Bui, MD  
 Sharon Connor, PharmD  
 Patricia Documet, MD, DrPH  
 Nina Markovic, BSDH, MS, PhD  
 Cynthia Salter, PhD, MPH  
 Jamie Zelazny, PhD, MPH, RN

**Community Preceptors**

Emmanuela Abraham  
 Sarah Crawshaw  
 Deborah Gallagher, MEd  
 Allison Haley, LCSW  
 Ives Letzo, BA  
 Deanna Sinex, PhD  
 Karen Upsher-Williams, MSW

**Community Partners**

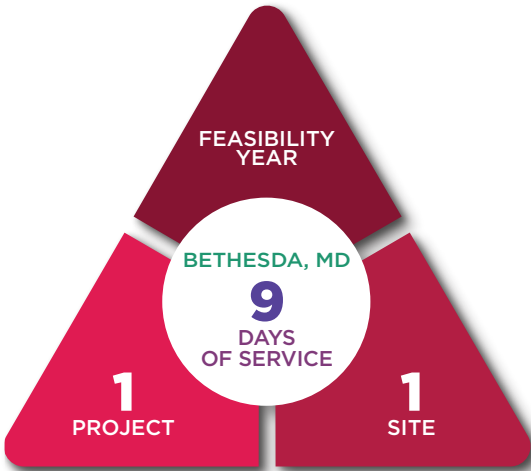
Center of Life  
 Council of Three Rivers American  
 Indian Center (COTRAIC)  
 Dragon's Den  
 Peoples Oakland  
 Sojourner House MOMS  
 Voices Against Violence  
 Youth Enrichment Services

**“** I have learned that members are more than their symptoms; each member has strengths, aspirations, and goals. [My site] fosters an environment of ... empowering not only its members but also its staff and interns. I came out of this internship with a new understanding of needs, concerns, progress, empathy, trust, and communication. In short, the relationships I have made here will stay with me for a lifetime.

**Carla Medina-Gil**  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 School of Pharmacy

**“** I applied to BTG because I wanted to experience and learn about a Pittsburgh community that was different from where I was living and have a hands-on experience helping them. My time ... has been very meaningful, and it really challenged my perceptions of myself and my abilities. [It] allowed me to gain a better understanding of how important and impactful early intervention efforts can be and see the effects of the social determinants of health in action. It was exciting to have the chance to design my own workshop and make activities for different groups. The positive relationships we built with the staff and children really made the experience worthwhile and enjoyable.

**Mary Ross**  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 School of Public Health



## PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

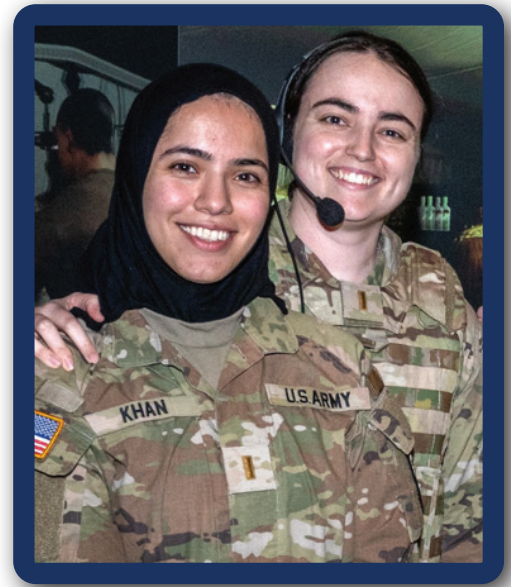
## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Community outreach
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Health status tracking
- Literacy activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES\*

- Access to healthcare
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Homelessness/housing

\* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.



## Program Staff and Faculty

Gena L. Glickman, PhD,  
*Program Director*

**“** BTG was a valuable exposure to community-based healthcare initiatives that seek to address socioeconomic disparities. I hope to one day draw on experiences like this in caring for our diverse population of service members and veterans.

**Sahraïn Zahoor**  
USUHS  
School of Medicine



## BTG 2023 Program Support

BTG regional programs are made possible through generous support from:

### Lehigh Valley

Federal Work-Study Program

### New Jersey

Federal Work-Study Program

### Philadelphia

Blair Dickinson

Federal Work-Study Program

Hess Foundation

Dee Hillas

Willie D. Little, MSW

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Darcie Rudolf

The Edna G. Kynett Memorial Foundation

### Pittsburgh

Anonymous

Anonymous SPH faculty

Martha A. Terry, MA, PhD

### Reading

Federal Work-Study Program

United Way of Berks County

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

## BTG 2023 Institutional Support

The Bridging the Gaps Program would not be possible without support from our participating institutions. We specifically want to acknowledge:

### Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Center for Humanism

### DeSales University

Division of Nursing

Physician Assistant Program

Treasurer's Office

### 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

Office of Student Support

Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

College of Public Health

School of Social Work

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

### 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

School of Dental Medicine

School of Medicine

School of Nursing

School of Pharmacy

School of Public Health

School of Rehabilitation



[www.bridgingthegaps.info](http://www.bridgingthegaps.info)

### Bridging the Gaps

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