

## Master of Public Health Student Profiles 2015-2016

**Name: Gunjan Agrawal**

**Degrees:** M.B.B.S. Dr. D.Y. Patil University (2010); Diploma in Child Health, B.J. Wadia Hospital for Children (2014)

**Professional Interests:** Maternal and Child Health, Infectious Disease Epidemiology

**Graduate Advisor:** Stephen A. McCurdy, MD, MPH

**Entry Year:** 2015

**Background/Interests:** After earning her Bachelor's degree in Medicine, Gunjan further pursued a diploma in pediatrics from B.J. Wadia Children Hospital in Mumbai, India. It was during this time that she attended various health camps in several remote villages along with treating medical problems in the urban population. She saw the health disparities in the varied population and realized the need for proper evaluation and management of resources for health promotion. Gunjan hopes to expand her knowledge of the infectious disease epidemiology and improve the overall health practices among doctors.



**Name: Muhammad Arif**

**Degrees:** B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Cellular Biology, UC Davis (2015)

**Professional Interests:** Public Health, Global Health, Epidemiology

**Graduate Advisor:** P. Marius Koga, MD, MPH

**Entry Year:** 2015

**Background/Interests:** Sohab's interest in Public Health developed when he grew up in a small village in Pakistan. Being part of this underserved community greatly influenced his desire of working in the public health field. Since childhood, Sohab has worked in water management projects. Interests like these lead Sohab in choosing biochemistry as his major. He has applied his Biochemistry skills in a nephrology research lab. By gaining a strong background in Public and Global Health, Sohab wishes to work with rural communities in the U.S and abroad.



**Name: Harpal Aulakh**

**Degrees:** B.A. Religious Studies, Allegheny College (2007)

**Professional Interests:** Geriatrics, Hospice Care, Palliative Care

**Graduate Advisor:** B.K. Yoo, MD, PhD

**Entry Year:** 2015

**Background/Interests:** Harpal is interested in learning how to both run and evaluate programs aimed at providing care for the frail and elderly. She currently works for Doctors Assisting Seniors at Home, DASH, in Santa Barbara, and serves as a Hospice of Santa Barbara Patient Care Volunteer. These experiences, along with a slew of biomedical science classes, have accentuated the dearth of appropriate care for many people who fall into the broad population of "seniors". Through an MPH she hopes to serve as their advocate and ensure quality of life no matter the age of the patient.



**Name: Carissa Ballew**

**Degrees:** B.S. Cell Biology, UC Davis (2012)

**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, Women's Health, Neonatal Care

**Graduate Advisor:** M. Jane Heinig, PhD

**Entry Year:** 2015

**Background/Interests:** Carissa grew up in a rural area of northern California. Her mother, being a RN, exposed her to the demands for exceptional medical care to underserved populations. After graduating she returned to Redding, and began working at Shasta Regional Medical Center as a Nurse's Aide in the ICU. During her time at SRMC, she has been mentored by doctors, surgeons, and nurses alike. Carissa was elected as the youngest member of the Shasta County Public Health Advisory Board, which allows her to advocate for issues affecting the millennial generation, and to pursue her interests in serving low-income rural communities.



**Name: Christopher (CJ) Calabrese****Degrees:** B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UC Davis (2015)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health, Social and Behavioral Health**Graduate Advisor:** Robert Bell, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As an undergraduate at UC Davis, CJ was very active on campus through his various volunteer health and leadership experiences. His interest in public health stems from his experience interning for the Health Education and Promotion program, where he worked to help improve the overall wellness of the student population. With an MPH degree, CJ hopes to improve the communities' health and life-long wellness through planning and developing health education and disease prevention programs. He also wishes to emphasize in sexual and mental health education for the youth and student populations.**Name: Stephanie Diego****Degrees:** B.S. Biological Sciences, UC Davis (2014)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health**Graduate Advisor:** Diana Cassady, DrPH, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Stephanie first became interested in public health while taking the course, Disease and Society, during which she discovered that public health encompasses the level and scope of her interests in the health care field. Stephanie intends to acquire her MPH and MD degree in order to actualize her goal to decrease and impact the public health issues, particularly childhood obesity, in the California Central Valley where she grew up. She is passionate about being a role model and advocate for promoting higher education amongst the Latino population in her community.**Name: Jennifer Diethelm****Degrees:** B.S. Biology, Allegheny College (2015)**Professional Interests:** One Health Initiative, Disease Ecology**Graduate Advisor:** Woutrina Smith, DVM, MPVM, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** While studying at Allegheny College Jennifer conducted disease ecology research and completed an undergraduate thesis on the treatment of Bd (fungal) infected amphibians. She has also been involved in the care and immunization of dairy cows, animal shelter wellness and socialization programs, and teaching at a children's educational farm. Through her college studies and field experiences she has gained a strong interest in the

interdisciplinary field of disease ecology. Jennifer wishes to use her MPH to pursue zoonotic disease research and explore the emerging field of One Health which integrates human and animal health.

**Name: Elizabeth Dingbaum****Degree:** B.S. Biochemistry, B.A. Spanish; Minor: Biology, Winona State University (2015)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health, Preventative Healthcare, Medicine**Graduate Advisor:** Amparo C. Villablanca, MD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** During an internship at the Medical University of South Carolina, Elizabeth had the opportunity to conduct analytical chemistry based research on thyroid hormone quantification. The public health applications of this research, as used by the National Institute of Health-Office of Dietary Supplements, bolstered her curiosity in the public health field. With her MPH, she hopes to pursue research, gain a new perspective, and learn more about preventative care to apply to her future career as a physician. Elizabeth plans to apply for medical school this summer, and is also interested in using her bilingual abilities to better serve Spanish-speaking patients.**Name: Omara Farooq****Degrees:** B.A. African American Studies; Minor: Gerontology, UCLA**Professional Interests:** Community Health, Chronic Disease Prevention, Nutrition, Health Care Access for Minorities, Health and Aging, General Public Health**Graduate Advisor:** Lorena Garcia, DrPH, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Omara began her undergraduate career as a pre-health student at UCLA. It was when she first began volunteering for UMMA Community Clinic, that she discovered the wonders of public health. Being part of an organization, such as UMMA Volunteer Project, rooted in helping the underrepresented and lower class is very important to her. The demand and need for clinics are high, and she hopes after graduating from UC Davis, she can help open similar clinics. Helping underserved communities is close to her heart, and she aspires to use her skills to better serve the population in terms of health care access and prevention.

**Name: Celeste Guerra****Degrees:** B.A. Psychology; Minor: Public Health, UC Merced (2015)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health, Health Disparities**Graduate Advisor:** Lorena Garcia, DrPH, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As an undergraduate student, Celeste was given the opportunity to help with research in public health. While working with the community on projects focused on Valley Fever and asthma, she became aware of the need to understand the experiences and beliefs of community members in order to improve their health. It was in a Health Disparities course that Celeste was exposed to the shocking health disparities in minority groups and led to her desire to pursue a career in public health. Celeste hopes to use her degree to help overcome these disparities by empowering underserved communities.

educationally underserved communities across the Sacramento County. His goal as a public health professional is to understand and address the various needs and challenges that these communities face, and to build a healthier Sacramento population. Prio also conducts research regarding the causes and effects of peripheral artery disease at the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at the UCDMC Department of Interventional Cardiology. He hopes to use the knowledge he gains here as a foundation for educating the Sacramento population about the importance of cardiovascular health and chronic disease prevention.

**Name: Krista Keachie****Degrees:** B.A. Molecular Biology and English Literature, University of Colorado, Boulder; M.D. UC Davis School of Medicine**Professional Interests:** Rural access to subspecialty medical care and trauma centers, Telemedicine**Graduate Advisor:** James Marcin, MD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Krista is currently in her residency program at UC Davis Medical Center, training for a career in Neurosurgery. She then plans on pursuing a fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery. She has had an interest in global health and has participated in several projects in the developing world. During residency, she has published several papers on traumatic brain injury and is interested in cost effectiveness and safety of centralized trauma care, particularly in the pediatric population, where subspecialty care is difficult to obtain in rural settings.**Name: Colleen Hogan****Degrees:** B.S. Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Pre-Physical Therapy, California State University, Fresno (2013)**Professional Interests:** Health Education and Health Promotion, Worksite Wellness, and General Public Health**Graduate Advisor:** Caroline Kurtz, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Colleen's interest in public health began during her undergraduate degree when she was taking a community health course. She had never heard of public health prior to her undergraduate degree and enjoyed the primary prevention side compared to the tertiary care aspects of physical therapy. She had always been interested in fitness and health and the association between exercise, nutrition, and disease. After acquiring her bachelor's degree, she obtained an internship in a Health Promotion Department. Colleen plans to use her MPH degree to work in the area of health promotion, organizing health education and nutritional services to disadvantaged communities.**Name: Hanna Kim****Degrees:** B.A. Molecular and Cell Biology; Minor: Creative Writing, UC Berkeley (2012)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health, Management and Health Policy, Health Education and Community Health**Graduate Advisor:** B.K. Yoo, MD, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Apart from working in academic research and the biotech industry, Hanna finds herself dedicating her time volunteering in various medical settings and has tutored various underprivileged groups such as first-generation college prospective students and San Quintin Prison detainees. Hanna is pursuing a MPH to understand on how different care provider-patient interactions translate to better quality and accessibility of the healthcare received by patients. She also hopes to investigate how these interactions relate to the unequal distribution of resources and care. Her mission is to be a part of the effort to establish a healthcare system that addresses socio-economic disparities.**Name: Priya Hossain****Degrees:** B.S. Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, UC Davis (2015)**Professional Interests:** Community Health Education, Chronic Disease Prevention, Cardiovascular Medicine Research**Graduate Advisor:** Dennis Pocekay, MD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Prio Hossain graduated in 2015 from the University of California, Davis with a B.S. in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior. He spent the majority of his undergraduate tenure working with various medically and

**Name: Eugene Kwon****Degrees:** B.A. Art Studio, UC Davis (2015)**Professional Interests:**

General Public Health, Epidemiology

**Graduate Advisor:** Marc B.

Schenker, MD, MPH

**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Eugene became passionate about public health while volunteering at the Imani Clinic in Oak Park, Sacramento. Here, Eugene was able to work with patients directly and understand the significance of health disparities prevalent in specific communities. He has also volunteered with youth throughout his time at UC Davis and hopes to increase health education and exercise programs. By completing his MPH, Eugene plans to become involved with health policy in the community and globally.**Name: Danielle Lippert****Degrees:** B.S. Kinesiology, Emphasis: Fitness, Nutrition, and Health, San Diego State University (2008)**Professional Interests:**

Indigenous Epidemiology, Health Care Access Advocacy for Underrepresented Populations

**Graduate Advisor:** Elisabeth R. Middelton, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As a member of the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe, Danielle became aware of the health disparities prevalent in underserved communities early in life. After obtaining a B.S., Danielle began her work in Tribal-specific Public Health program implementation. Collaborating with many tribes throughout California, she was able to work effectively with federal, state, and county agencies, bridging a communication gap that is often a barrier to tribal communities receiving adequate health care and prevention services. Danielle also has a keen interest in building the capacity of underserved communities, specifically American Indian tribes, to identify, collect, and summarize health-related data.**Name: Caitlin Lydon****Degrees:** B.S. Health Science: Health Education, California State University, Chico (2013)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health, Epidemiology, Infectious Disease**Graduate Advisor:** Stephen A.

McCurdy, MD, MPH

**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Caitlin was introduced to public health during her undergrad at CSU Chico. She was inspired by the variety of subtopics and outside work done by her professors.

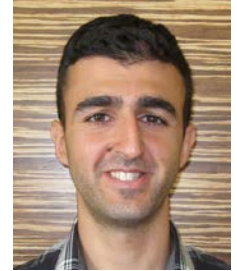
Caitlin volunteered as a care companion in a local hospice facility, and later, as an administrative aid for the Director of Emergency Services at Feather River Hospital in Paradise, CA. Through these experiences, along with several school projects and classes, Caitlin discovered her interest in infectious disease and epidemiology. Caitlin is looking forward to the MPH program with hopes of improving the health of populations on a large scale.

**Name: Matthew Mayeda****Degrees:** B.S. Biochemistry and Cell Biology; B.A. Individualized Studies: Health Care-Social Issues; Minor in Music, University of California, San Diego (2013)**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, Management and Health Policy**Graduate Advisor:** Dennis Pocekay, MD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** While studying at the UC San Diego, Matthew chaired the Well-being Cluster Student Advisory Board that reviewed campus health resources. After graduation, Matthew worked as a healthcare consultant for large hospital systems on the west coast. Currently, Matthew is the financial analyst for the University of California, Office of the President's Student Health Insurance Plan where he runs the plan's financials and data analytics. Through running reports on student health, Matthew was inspired to obtain his MPH to better understand disease prevention in human populations. Outside of work, Matthew enjoys martial arts and dancing.**Name: Alia McKean****Degrees:** B.A. Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley (2014)**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, Maternal and Child Health**Graduate Advisor:** Heike Thiel de Bocanegra, PhD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As an undergraduate, Alia volunteered in the Family Care Center of the Alta Bates Hospital, where she first became inspired to investigate topics in maternal and child health. Post-graduation, Alia continued to bolster her love of medicine by volunteering at the Children's Hospital in Oakland and writing articles examining the intersection between medicine and the humanities. With her MPH degree, Alia hopes to address barriers to healthcare and provide educational resources to underserved communities regarding reproductive health. In her spare time, Alia moonlights as a violinist, and enjoys exploring modern music and art.

**Name: Khatija Naing****Degree:** B.A. Philosophy, UC Santa Cruz (2011)**Professional Interests:** Increasing Health Care Access, Improving Disparities, Public Health Policy**Graduate Advisor:** Marc B. Schenker, MD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As a philosophy undergraduate at UC Santa Cruz, Khatija explored ethical issues surrounding medicine and inequalities in access to it that arise from inefficient health policy. Consequently, Khat's medicine-related goals have evolved toward a public health standpoint. In the MPH program, she aims to learn how to improve health disparities through change in policy and apply ethical decision-making in a healthcare context. An aspiring surgeon, Khat believes that her experience in the program will enable her to advocate for the underserved and increase access to medical and surgical care for the homeless and otherwise socioeconomically underprivileged.

ponds across the city to assess their functionality and health, in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's permit program to legally operate a storm and surface water system. Melissa's public health interests have since expanded to include clinical health. She recently assisted with the implementation of an electronic medical record system into hospitals and clinics for the dual purpose of promoting better patient record keeping and creating more statistically accurate assessments of public health. She hopes to further contribute to the detection and prevention of human health risks, both in the natural and clinical environment.

**Name: Kimberly Prado****Degrees:** B.S. Clinical Nutrition, B.A. Exercise Biology, UC Davis (2013)**Professional Interests:** General Public Health, Nutrition, Exercise**Graduate Advisor:** Diana Cassady, DrPH, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As a UC Davis UCLEADS scholar, Kim conducted research on diabetes and metabolic syndrome. For two years she has and continues to work for UC Cooperative Extension CalFresh (SNAP) Nutrition Education as a Bilingual Community Education Specialist. With her MPH she will work on the barriers to Nutrition and Exercise in low-income and Latino populations. She will use her education as a Health Promotions Program Manager and a Health and Wellness Officer. She is excited to work with government agencies, healthcare providers, scientists, public figures, and community members on health advocacy, policy and research.**Name: Natasha Pavlovich****Degrees:** B.S. Public Health, College of Charleston (2013)**Professional Interests:** Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention**Graduate Advisor:** Diana Cassady, DrPH, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** After graduating from the College of Charleston, Natasha worked for a non-profit Farm-to-School program where she grew a passion for organic farming and local food procurement as a strategy to increase the availability/accessibility of healthy food in underserved communities; prevent diet-related chronic diseases; and decrease health disparities between the affluent and poor. Her strong desires to promote food sovereignty and be an advocate for local food systems have led her to pursue an MPH at UC Davis. Aside from her academic interests, Natasha is highly active and loves to participate in triathlons, running races, hiking and gardening.**Name: Alexis Rosvall****Degrees:** B.A. Integrative Biology; Minor: Spanish Language and Literature, UC Berkeley (2010)**Professional Interests:** Infectious Disease, Global Health, Health Disparities**Graduate Advisor:** Stephen A. McCurdy, MD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Alexis is a current medical student at UC Davis. Her interests in global public health peaked while living and conducting primate research in Equatorial Guinea, West Africa. She has continued to develop this interest through international travel, her medical education, and active involvement in the Global Health Student Interest Group at UCDSOM. Her current interests center around exploring domestic applications of global health and improving disparities in immigrant and rural health**Name: Melissa Pighin****Degrees:** B.A. Environmental Studies, University of Washington (2012)**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Preventive Medicine**Graduate Advisor:** Nicholas Anderson, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As an undergraduate, Melissa participated in a city internship where she familiarized herself with the pollutant filtration services provided by detention ponds. She analyzed sediment accumulation in detention

**Name: Katherine Schmarje****Degrees:** B.S. Health Science with an emphasis in Public Health, San Diego State University (2015)**Professional Interests:** Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Environmental Epidemiology**Graduate Advisor:** Gerhard Bauer, MD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Katherine's interest in epidemiology began in the beginning of her undergraduate studies when she took an intro class for public health. Her interests grew from infectious disease epidemiology to environmental epidemiology through air quality fieldwork measuring PM2.5 and PM1. Katherine's interests in epidemiology were further strengthened during an internship with Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego where she was exposed to HIV epidemiology work in African countries. At UC Davis, Katherine hopes to pursue epidemiological studies that will lead to work helping underserved populations and reduce the spread of infectious disease.**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Samantha became interested in public health while studying the gendered dynamics of HIV/AIDS in South Africa during her undergraduate degree. Her interest continued throughout her graduate studies, and was further enhanced by her work with non-profits. After immigrating to the United States in 2007, Samantha continued to work for non-profit organizations focused on the health and wellness of women. More recently Samantha has been engaged with local public health departments in Yolo and Sacramento working on HIV surveillance and tobacco control. Samantha enjoys running, hiking, and spends a lot of her time running after her three year-old twin girls.**Name: Shant Stephanian****Degrees:** B.S. Exercise Biology, UC Davis (2014)**Professional Interests:** International Medicine, Preventive Care, Health Education**Graduate Advisor:** P. Marius Koga, MD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Shant's interest in public and international health grew through his summer volunteer work in Yerevan, Armenia. By working with physicians and pediatricians from around the world, Shant noticed the disparity in health resources and standard of living that he was accustomed to in the U.S. Since then, Shant has joined the Armenian Healthcare Association of the Bay Area (AHABA) with the goal of tackling issues of childcare and diabetes in villages throughout Armenia. As an undergraduate at Davis, Shant studied preventive care and epidemiology and hopes to continue his education in public health and medicine.**Name: Hayley Scott****Degrees:** B.A. Art History; Minor: German, Willamette University (2012)**Professional Interests:** Eating Disorder Awareness, Nutritional Counseling for Disordered Eating, Holistic Health**Graduate Advisor:** Roberto De Vogli, DrPsy, PhD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Hayley has long been fascinated by the way the body works with regard to nutrition, yoga, and the body-mind relationship. In dealing with an eating disorder during college and the subsequent recovery, she realized that by helping those in similar situations, she could follow her passion of encouraging others toward a healthy body-mind relationship. In doing so, she seeks to change the rhetoric of society regarding healthy versus skinny, by showing women that ultimately, health is the most beautiful thing a body can achieve. In her free time, Hayley does copious amounts of yoga and can usually be found bopping around the kitchen.**Name: Matthew Stuckey****Degrees:** B.S. Environmental Economics & Policy, Conservation & Resource Studies, UC Berkeley (2007)**Professional Interests:** Infectious Disease Epidemiology, General Public Health**Graduate Advisor:** Bruno Chomel, DrSc, DVM, MS, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Epidemiology at UC Davis, Matt has been studying the epidemiology of *Bartonella* spp. in bat populations of Central Mexico and Western Europe. For the past year, he has also been working as a consultant on a project to develop a surveillance program for Q fever in the Republic of Georgia. Matt is broadly interested in applied epidemiology and public health practice.**Name: Samantha Sime****Degrees:** M.A. Gender Studies, SOAS, University of London, U.K. (2007); B.A. Political Science and Japanese, Oxford Brookes, U.K. (2004)**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, Maternal Fetal Health, Reproductive Health and Health Education**Graduate Advisor:** Lorena Garcia, DrPH, MPH

**Name: Diana Tran****Degrees:** B.A. Public Health, Minor in Global Poverty and Practice, UC Berkeley (2013)**Professional Interests:** Maternal and Child Health, Global Health**Graduate Advisor:** Heike Thiel de Bocanegra, PhD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Diana's passion for health equity and community health began through her undergraduate degree in Public Health and Global Poverty. While working with underserved communities, she gained insight to the importance of healthcare access and preventative care as a caseworker to help connect low-income families to free health and social services, a medical interpreter at community clinics, and a swimming instructor for the Special Needs Aquatic program in Berkeley, CA. Her interests in the social and structural determinants of health deepened through her research with PVNF. While abroad, she focused on determining the barriers to healthcare services for children with special needs in Hanoi, Vietnam. After graduation, Diana's experiences with the UCSF Global Health Core and Colford Global Health Research Group have cultivated her interests in public health infrastructure and research dissemination. Diana wishes to earn her Master's degree in Public Health to address health disparities through epidemiologic research and advocate for the health needs of disadvantaged communities.**Name: Karen Truong****Degrees:** B.S. Public Health Sciences, UC Irvine (2013)**Professional Interests:** One Health, Zoonotic Diseases, Marine and Coastal Conservation**Graduate Advisor:** Woutrina Smith, DVM, MPVM, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** Community service plays a huge role in flourishing Karen's passion and dedication to become a public health leader. She volunteered as a Disaster Preparedness Educator with the American Red Cross, Scientific Aid with the Back Bay Science Center, Volunteer Coordinator Assistant with the American Heart Association, and Executive Board Member, for 5 years, with the high school and collegiate sectors of the Kiwanis International community service organization. With an MPH, Karen hopes to increase the awareness and accessibility to health education and sustainability. Karen's personal interests include: photography, traveling, hiking, and DIY crafting.**Name: Justin Tsui****Degrees:** B.S. Environmental Toxicology; Minor: Technology Management, UC Davis (2015)**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, General Public Health**Graduate Advisor:** Deborah Bennett, PhD**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** As an undergraduate at UC Davis, Justin interned at various dental community clinics in nearby communities. He observed many challenges community members of Yolo County faced in order to access dental treatment. After volunteering and observing dental clinics in other parts of the state, Justin was inspired to help those who were impoverished and underrepresented. He wants to pursue an MPH in order to gain the knowledge and skills to improve programs related to accessing dental care.**Name: Pranaya Venkatapura****Degrees:** B.S. Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, UC Davis (2014)**Professional Interests:** Global Health, Women's Health, Preventive Health, Interdisciplinary Research, Epidemiology**Professional Interests:** Global Health, Women's Health, Preventive Health, Interdisciplinary Research, Epidemiology**Graduate Advisor:** Roberto De Vogli, DrPsy, PhD, MPH**Entry Year:** 2015**Background/Interests:** After graduating in 2014, Pranaya continued as a researcher for Global HealthShare initiative at UC Davis. She worked on an interdisciplinary research project to improve livelihoods of smallholder farmer families through agricultural education and community health initiatives in the Sundarban Delta of West Bengal, India. Pranaya was actively involved in Shifa Clinic (a student-run clinic at UC Davis) as Resource Coordinator of their breast cancer awareness and screening program to provide uninsured populations access to culturally sensitive preventive care. Going forward, she hopes to continue contributing to interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts in public health and medicine to empower underserved communities

**Name: Jasmeen Visla**

**Degrees:** B.S. Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, UC Davis (2014)

**Professional Interests:**

Healthcare in Underserved Communities, Preventative Care

**Graduate Advisor:** Paul Leigh, PhD

**Entry Year:** 2015

**Background/Interests:** Growing up in an underserved community Jasmeen noticed health care disparities at an early age. As an undergraduate student at UC Davis, Jasmeen became heavily involved with Shifa Clinic, a student-run clinic, and the Bhagat Puran Singh Health Initiative. These two organizations strive to provide primary care to all and to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers that marginalized communities face in health care. All of these experiences have led her to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health. She hopes that she can help eliminate many barriers that these communities face and increase their accessibility to healthcare.

**Name: Jenny Wagner**

**Degrees:** B.A. Exercise Biology; Minor: Nutritional and Food Sciences, UC Davis (2014)

**Professional Interests:** Epidemiology, Health Education and Promotion

**Graduate Advisor:** Diana Cassady, DrPH, MPH

**Entry Year:** 2015

**Background/Interests:** Jenny's professional goals and interests have always revolved around fitness and health, although it was not until her last year as a UC Davis undergraduate that she decided to pursue a career in public health. As an Exercise Biology major, Jenny developed a strong interest in the diseases associated with poor diet and fitness status, particularly those involving the heart and cardiovascular system. Jenny hopes to use her MPH degree to organize and promote health education services focusing on positive lifestyle choices, and she hopes to improve the accessibility of healthy food options in low-income areas.

**About the MPH at UC Davis**

The UC Davis MPH program is designed for people interested in disease prevention and community health. The program includes instruction in epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, health services and administration, and social and behavioral science, and prepares students for an expanding range of professional opportunities and roles in public health and medicine.

**Questions and Information:****Program Director**

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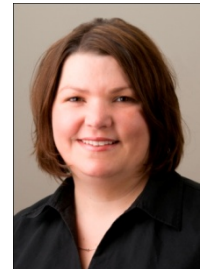
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