



Isôoko Global Community-Based Education Program

Profiles for the Inaugural Cohort

July 2023

THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION

The Global Community Based Education is a three-week program centered in Burera District, Northern Rwanda. It is specifically designed for students pursuing advanced degrees in health and other global health-related sciences, including nursing, medicine, public health, global and public health, and other related disciplines. Hosted by the Department of Community Health and Social Medicine at the University of Global Health Equity, the program aims to advance community health and education through participatory student-centered approaches, hands-on education, and community engagement.

At the core of CBE is a radical approach to health education, which recognizes communities as the experts, teachers, and advisors in identifying health challenges and addressing public health problems. During the program, students will actively engage with rural Rwanda, dismantling their own biases and assumptions about what is possible in rural settings. They will be inspired by local activists and community leaders, gaining firsthand experience in addressing inequities and becoming active participants in promoting community health.

The Program also includes:

- 15 field site visits across Rwanda, with a focus on rural areas, offering firsthand exposure to diverse healthcare settings.
- Team-based learning projects, games, and activities promote collaboration and practical application of knowledge.
- Case-based collaborative learning to innovative approaches to global health
- Individual and group-based projects



LIINA UMUHOZA

Rwanda & United States of America



A Master of Public Health student at Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA

Liina Umuhoza is an aspiring public health professional currently pursuing an MPH degree with a specialization in Global Public Health at Rutgers University in New Jersey. With a background as a registered nurse in emergency services, she possesses firsthand experience in addressing critical medical needs and is deeply committed to healthcare. Born in Rwanda and having spent a significant portion of her life in the US, Liina has developed a profound passion for understanding and comparing healthcare systems in both countries. This unique background fuels her dedication to strengthening health systems and implementing culturally sensitive programs that cater to the diverse needs of communities. Through the CBE program, Liina aims to acquire a comprehensive understanding of Rwanda's community health system and explore how its approaches can be effectively applied in her future work with communities. By integrating her knowledge as a registered nurse and her ongoing studies, she strives to develop thoughtful strategies that enhance healthcare delivery and create a positive impact on people's lives.

CALEIGH SMITH

United States of America



A Fourth Year Medical Student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, USA

Caleigh is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. She completed her undergraduate studies with dual degrees in Biology and Global Health. Following her undergraduate studies, Caleigh dedicated a year to serve as a research coordinator at Weill Cornell Medicine, focusing on cardiovascular disease research in Haiti. Currently applying for residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Caleigh aspires to integrate her clinical interests with research and global health initiatives.

Caleigh's excitement reaches new heights as she eagerly looks forward to the Global CBE program at UGHE. She believes that by engaging with the community and learning from CHWs, she will be inspired to become an even more compassionate and skilled physician. The opportunity to meet and collaborate with fellow students from diverse backgrounds adds an extra layer of enthusiasm to her journey. When Caleigh takes a break from her medical endeavors, she finds joy in the great outdoors. Hiking through breathtaking landscapes, biking to exhilarating destinations, and sharing precious moments with her puppy, Pumpkin.

CÉLINE RUKIID

Rwanda & United States of America



*MD/MPH student at Creighton University,
USA*

Céline Rukiidi is an MD/MPH student at Creighton University in Phoenix, AZ, USA. Although born in the United States, she spent her formative years in Alberta, Canada. Céline pursued her. With a Rwandan and Ugandan heritage, she expresses immense joy in returning to Rwanda for the Global CBE program, considering it a dream come true. Having heard about the pioneering work of UGHE in Rwanda, she is eager to be part of the program and is particularly excited about understanding the structure of UGHE and meeting community health workers (CHWs) in the field. Céline finds great fulfillment in listening to patient stories as a form of community work. Her interests encompass audio journalism, narratives in medicine, and storytelling, as these avenues allow her to comprehend patients and community members holistically, informing her future provision of healthcare as a provider.

As a Rwandan who has spent most of her life abroad, Céline hopes this experience will deepen her understanding of the healthcare challenges and accomplishments in her home country. The program will offer a firsthand glimpse into the lives of rural patients and their families, which she believes will inform her future medical practices globally. Outside of her academic pursuits, Céline enjoys cooking, practicing yoga, jogging at a leisurely pace, listening to podcasts, and traveling.

HUGUES HABIMANA ISHIMWE

Rwanda



*Third-year midwifery student at the University of Rwanda,
Rwanda*

Hugues Habimana Ishimwe, is a third-year midwifery student at the University of Rwanda. With a heart set on making a lasting impact, Hugues views the Global Community-Based Education Program at UGHE as an incredible opportunity to co-develop sustainable community health programs, putting affected persons at the forefront. His goal is to acquire the skills needed to drive positive change in this domain. Embracing the program with open arms, Hugues envisions a transformative journey that will boost his self-confidence, ignite his passion for taking risks, and embrace new challenges. Community-Based Education will expose him to the pressing health issues faced by communities, allowing him to explore innovative solutions firsthand. Furthermore, it will reignite his research endeavors, focusing on assessing the impact of advanced maternal-age pregnancies on congenital anomalies in Rwanda. Together with his peers, he aims to reshape the future of healthcare, one empowered community at a time.

Beyond his studies, Hugues finds solace in two cherished passions: swimming and devouring enlightening global health articles. Hugues eagerly anticipates connecting with fellow students during this journey, where he plans to share Kinyarwanda words and the vibrant Rwandan culture.

JORDAN SWANDELL

United States of America



*Medical student at UNC Medical Center and Master of Science in
Global Health student at Duke University, USA*

Jordan Swandell is a dedicated person with a diverse background and a passion for community-centered healthcare. He is currently a medical student at UNC Medical Center and a student in Duke University's Master of Science in Global Health program. With a diverse background that includes serving as a military officer in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, he brings a unique perspective to his studies. Jordan's experiences have inspired him to prioritize community-centered approaches to healthcare, and he is thrilled to attend the global CBE program at UGHE, recognizing it as a life-changing opportunity. He is excited to learn how to better serve and empower communities as he continues his journey towards becoming a leader in global health. Outside of his academic pursuits, Jordan finds joy in family life, sharing precious moments with his wife Sarah, a pastor and homemaker, and witnessing the growth of their three-year-old daughter. In his free time, he enjoys playing the guitar and exploring nature through hiking adventures with his loved ones.

MADELINE DEANNE

United States of America



*Second year medical student at Creighton University,
USA*

Madeline Deanne is a second-year medical student at Creighton University with a passion for making a positive impact. She is thrilled to explore the unique challenges faced in the Burera area and the innovative solutions offered by UGHE. Coming from a Jesuit background, Madeline is excited to bring a fresh perspective to UGHE's focus on "systems" rather than symptoms.

When it comes to community work, Madeline finds fulfillment in engaging in physical activities and handiwork. She enjoys witnessing strangers learn new skills or creating something together, whether they've known each other for minutes or years. As she prepares to engage with the Burera community, Madeline expects to learn from their experience and looks forward to mutual reflection on cherished values.

Madeline's current favorite hobby is sewing, and she has a love for various art methods and crafts. While she used to play the flute, she now enjoys exploring different aspects of music. In her free time, Madeline likes walking outdoors and weightlifting for exercise. She has a consistent breakfast routine, savoring Greek yogurt with vanilla protein powder, chopped fruit, and granola—a true favorite of hers.

OLUCHUKWU DELE-ONI

United States of America & Nigeria



Third year medical student at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, USA

Oluchukwu Dele-Oni, known as Oluchi, is a 3rd year medical student at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in the USA. Having started her professional journey as a teacher, Oluchi deeply understands the importance of acknowledging the social, economic, and cultural backgrounds of those she serves. She believes that true empathy and effective advocacy can only be achieved by recognizing and addressing the substantial gaps that exist within healthcare, education, socioeconomic, and political systems. As a participant in the Global Community-Based Education Program at UGHE, Oluchi eagerly anticipates engaging with community members, leaders, and healthcare workers. Through these interactions, she aims to gain firsthand insights into the barriers to care and collaboratively devise practical solutions. Oluchi firmly believes that the experiences and skills she acquires during the program will profoundly shape her future work in global surgery.

Thrilled to learn alongside her fellow CBE scholars, Oluchi eagerly looks forward to the invaluable knowledge exchange and the transformative impact they can collectively make in the field of global healthcare.

PURITY CHEPKOECH

Kenya



*MSc. Global Health student at Duke University,
USA*

Purity Chepkoech is a dedicated second-year MSc. Global Health student at Duke University, with a background in medicine and a passion for improving healthcare. Originally from Kenya, she completed her medical education and worked as a general physician, gaining valuable experience in the field. Purity's specific interests lie in women's reproductive health, global surgical care, community health, and promoting equity and diversity in healthcare. She recognizes the immense value of UGHE's global CBE program as it provides a remarkable opportunity to engage with community stakeholders, learn from their experiences, and better understand the factors influencing their health and healthcare-seeking behaviors. This knowledge will enable her to deliver comprehensive and patient-centered care.

Beyond her academic pursuits, Purity confesses to indulging in her guilty pleasure of watching cat videos online. She eagerly looks forward to participating in the global CBE program and experiencing the transformative environment of Butaro.

REBECCA JOSEPH

United States of America



*Student in the master's program at the Boston University
School of Social Work, USA*

Rebecca Joseph, known as Bayckah was born and raised in Haiti, and she migrated to the United States about 10 years ago. She cherishes her roles as a daughter, sister, niece, cousin, and friend. Being outdoors and immersing herself in nature brings her joy, especially through hiking and sharing laughter with loved ones. Currently, she is pursuing a dual master's program at the Boston University School of Social Work and Public Health, intending to become a trauma consultant to support persons affected by traumatic events.

One of the key reasons Rebecca is excited to attend the global CBE program is her firm belief in the expertise of communities when it comes to their own health. She recognizes the profound value in understanding the perspectives and insights of community members to deliver comprehensive and person-centered care. By actively engaging with the community during this program, she hopes to foster a deeper appreciation for their knowledge and collaborate on solutions that promote holistic well-being.

ZOE FANNING

United States of America



Second-year medical student at Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, USA

Zoe Fanning is a second-year medical student at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. With great enthusiasm, she looks forward to meeting the remarkable individuals involved in the GCBE program. Zoe firmly believes that the well-being of a community is intertwined with the health of each individual, and her work and interests revolve around this core belief. Throughout her academic journey, spanning undergraduate studies, graduate studies, and medical school, Zoe has dedicated her research to the delivery of healthcare during armed conflict and humanitarian crises. She recognizes the deep connection between these circumstances and community health. Zoe is driven by a passionate commitment to ensure that high-quality, affordable, effective, and equitable healthcare reaches those who are suffering, and she actively challenges assumptions that such care cannot be accessible to all.

In her work and research, Zoe aims to understand, advocate for, and implement policies and programs that place the experiences and expertise of communities and patients at the forefront. She recognizes the importance of valuing their insights and involving them in decision-making processes. Beyond medicine and research, Zoe finds joy in various activities, including running, reading, knitting, gardening, skiing, and spending cherished moments with her family.



THANK YOU

For any inquiries about the CBE Global Program, please reach out to the UGHE's Community Health and Social Medicine Department at commhealth@ughe.org

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