



UNIVERSITY *of*  
DENVER

HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS  
HIGHWAY



CREATING A SELF-SUSTAINING,  
CULTURALLY DIVERSE PIPELINE  
TO DEVELOP FUTURE HEALTHCARE  
PROFESSIONALS

University of Denver  
June 23-28, 2019



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS



University of Denver  
Center for Community  
Engagement &  
Service Learning

*Health Professions Highway (HPH)* is funded by DU's Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL) and DU's Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM). Thank you for your support and encouragement to produce this program.

*Health Professions Highway* is also supported by SCL Health/St. Joseph's Hospital – a presenting sponsor, providing the opportunity for students to spend an entire day with their health care teams. Thank you to sponsor DaVita Clinical, Denver Health – CPR/First Aid sponsor, and Kaiser Integrated Arts – health equity sponsor, for providing training and/or support for the HPH program. All of these organizations make the program more successful than it would be otherwise.



*Health Professions Highway* is a collaborative project between the University of Denver and College Track-Colorado (CT) to host 12 high school students for one week during the summer. The goal of this collaboration is to provide CT students interested in health care professions exposure to: 1) the college environment, 2) greater understanding of different health professions and academic requirements /expectations/pathways of various health professions careers, 3) challenges and opportunities facing health care patients and providers, and 4) development of professional skills. CT students live in DU residence halls for one week, and they are partnered with DU undergraduates who have designated themselves as "health professions interested" and "mentor interested" students.



## *Health Professions Highway (HPH) Program*

The HPH program was developed through a serendipitous meeting between Barbekka Hurtt and Stephanie Tran in October 2016. Through conversation, both Barbekka and Stephanie realized there was an exciting collaborative opportunity to create a program to serve high school students interested in pursuing health professions careers. Thus evolved the Health Professions Highway Program. Nancy Lorenzon joined us to create a meaningful, purposeful, and engaging program. Thank you participating in this journey with us. We are excited to see where it leads all of us, now and into the future!



Barbekka Hurtt is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Denver. She received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a B.A. in Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology and B.S. in Kinesiology, also from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is a Colorado native, having grown up in Littleton, CO. She and her husband have 2 dogs, Shiba Inus, and also frequently foster for the Colorado Shiba Inu Rescue. She enjoys spending time with her husband, mother and friends, and running, cycling, hiking, skiing, reading and traveling.



Stephanie Tran is the Interim Academic Affairs Director at College Track – Aurora. She is a DU alumni, graduating with a degree in Biology. Community engaged work has been central to Stephanie's education and work, as she was highly involved in DU's CCESL program as an undergraduate student, creating great community involved activities and resources. Stephanie is also interested in public health and plans to pursue graduate studies in the future. Her Top 5 Strengths (Gallup Strengths Finder) are: Achiever, Communication, Activator, Individualization, Empathy.



Nancy Lorenzon is a Teaching Professor with the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Denver. She serves as Director of Pre-Professional /Allied Health Advising and oversees the Professional Science Master's program in Biomedical Sciences. She recently received the Master Educator Award and the Faculty Advisor of the Year honor. Nancy received her Ph.D. in Anatomy and Neurobiology from the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center and her B.S. in Animal Behavior from Bucknell University. In her free time, Nancy enjoys backpacking, cooking and traveling.

# DU UNDERGRADUATE MENTORS

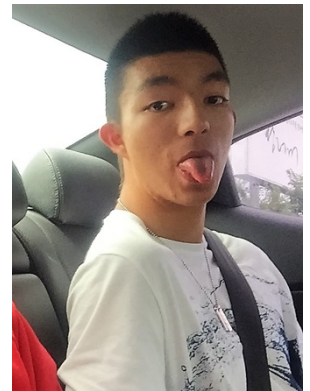
## NANA DANSO

Hello, my name is Nana Danso and I'm a rising junior here at the University of Denver. I'm studying biology with a concentration in cognitive neuroscience and minors in psychology, chemistry and leadership. On campus, I'm involved in the Pioneer Leadership Program as well as the Black Student Alliance and African Students United. Some fun facts about me are that I'm originally from Ghana and I love Chick-fil-A. I'm super excited to be a part of the Health Professions Pathways Program this year.



## JUN KIM

Hello, my name is Jun and I'm a biology major here at DU. I am very excited to be one of your mentors this year. I grew up in Parker, Colorado and attended Regis Jesuit High School. I played tennis and swam all four years I was there. During, my senior year I decided that I wanted to stay in-state for college and chose the University of Denver to attend for my undergraduate degree. I had always wanted to be a doctor so becoming a biology major was only natural. I am a very laid-back person. I don't take life or myself too seriously. I like having fun and making jokes. If I have free time I'm probably playing basketball or watching anime. I also work as an EMT, so if you have any questions about that feel free to ask. Let's have an amazing week!



## ERIN SADLER

Hello! My name is Erin Sadler, I'm a rising senior at the University of Denver. I am a biology major with lots of minors (Spanish, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology). I'm originally from Houston and a member of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first historically black sorority! For fun I like to go to art and science museums, music festivals, and do any activities where I can enjoy the lovely (hot) Denver weather.



## CHRISTO LUNA

Hello! My name is Christo Luna! I am from Las Cruces, New Mexico, I am studying biology and Spanish here at DU! I have a small bunny, his name is Lil Papi. I enjoy playing sports and being involved in leadership activities. I am a Daniels Fund Scholar and I am pursuing a career in the health field. I would love to become a family doctor or nurse sometime. After college, I plan on joining the military to help people across the world. I love to relax outdoors and cook. I am an open book, feel free to ask me whatever you want!



## KAYLA NOCON

Hi! My name is Kayla Nocon. I'm a rising junior here at DU, majoring in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Italian! I come from a family of immigrants from Laos and the Philippines and I've lived in Colorado all my life! I'm apart of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority Inc., a multicultural greek sorority here on campus. I love to play volleyball, cook & bake, change my hair to fun colors, spend my time outdoors and spending time with my family and friends. My favorite dogs are pugs, though I love all dogs and once I get a pug, his name will be Rufus! 😊 I speak 2 languages fluently but I do know a little bit of spanish and I'm working on become fluent in Italian! I'm passionate about healthcare and have been since the age of 10, I hope to become an oncologist (cancer doctor)!



## SOPHIA KIM

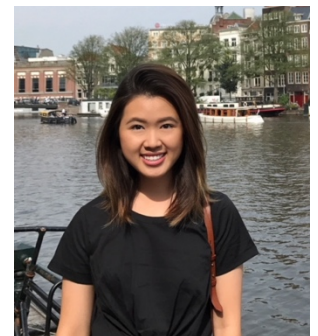
Greetings! My name is Sophia Kim and I'm ethnically a South Korean. Although I was born in Denver, I've been living in Korea the past 10 years and I'm proud to say that I come from a big family of six that consists of my dad, mom, two older sisters, one younger brother and me! I am currently a freshman pursuing a BS in biology along with minors in chemistry and socio-legal studies. I am very passionate about service opportunities, as I hope to become a doctor of internal medicine and serve as many people possible! I love spending time with nature, watching movies with friends/family or creatively expressing myself through art!



## MENTOR DEVELOPMENT

### AIMEE BUI

I amajored in Molecular Biology and minored in Chemistry in addition to Business Administration. I was born and raised in Colorado and I love it here! During my free time, I enjoy going on hikes with friends, playing tennis, and simply enjoying the outdoors. I also love volunteering and getting involved with the community! I currently work full time at a local dermatology clinic, learning and gaining experience before I apply to graduate school.



# SUNDAY, June 23

<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1:00 p – 2:00 pm	Olin Hall	Welcome & Lunch
2:00 – 3:00 pm	OlinHall	“Icebreakers”
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Nelson Hall	Check-in
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Nelson Hall	Campus tour
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Olin Hall	Dinner
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Olin Hall	Game night



Easiest access to Olin Hall for dropping off students: temporary parking is available at the south end of Olin Hall, off of S. Wesley St. There is no charge for parking when dropping off students. Olin Hall is Hall is circled in **BLUE**; Nelson Hall is circled in **YELLOW** in the map above.

# MONDAY, June 24



<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
7:30 – 8:30 am	Nelson Hall	Breakfast
9:00am-12:00 pm	Olin 103	CPR/First Aid training
12:30 – 1:30pm	Nelson Hall	Lunch
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Olin 103	CPR/First Aid training
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Nelson Hall	Dinner
7:30 – 9:30 pm	AAC 275 (Library)	Introduction to research projects



Nelson Hall is circled in **YELLOW** in the map above; RSECS is circled in **RED**; Olin Hall is circled in **BLUE**; AAC (library) is circled in **BLACK**.

# TUESDAY, June 25



<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
7:30 – 8:15 am	Nelson Hall	Breakfast
8:30 – 11:30 am	Olin 103	Morning Session: <i>Care Equity Project</i> Kaiser Permanente Arts Integrated Resources
11:45	Olin Hall	Leave for DaVita Clinical
12:30 – 4:30pm	DaVita Clinical	Lunch, Tour, Networking
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Olin Hall Rotunda	Health Professionals Dinner



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HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS  
PANEL

## **Anthony Michael Olivia, MD**

I grew up in a small, agricultural town called Fort Lupton just north of Denver. After high school, I went to Alamosa, Colorado to go to college at Adams State University. As the first person in my family to go to college, I ultimately earned dual degrees; a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. The year following college graduation, I did basic science research at the University of Colorado (UC) School of Medicine and later started the Medical Scientist Training Program, a combination medical doctorate (MD) and doctor of philosophy (PhD) program. I earned my PhD in the field of neuroscience and graduated from the program after 9 years. Next, I trained in the area of anesthesiology and completed a 4-year residency program. Now, I work as faculty at the UC School of Medicine where I take care of patients in the operating room and I also teach medical students and residents.



## **Lilia Chavez, RD**



My name is Lilia Chavez and I am a Registered Dietitian. I always tell people that I love food so much I studied it. Although this is true, the real reason I became a dietitian is because I have a passion for helping people. While in college, I quickly realized that many chronic diseases are preventable. Then I realized that sometimes this is due to not having access to affordable and healthy foods. I want to help change that. Currently, I work for the Tri-County Health Department in the WIC program where I assist low-income families and address their nutritional needs. I hope to one day work closer in changing nutrition-related policies, systems, and environmental change to help prevent obesity and other diseases at a population level. I truly believe that All Coloradans should have access to affordable and healthy food in their communities.

## **Jennyfer Mitchell, Ph.D.**

Jennyfer Mitchell was born, raised, and completed her education through college in Columbia. She moved to the United States and pursued graduate education in Biological Sciences at DU. She graduated with her Ph.D. in 2018, studying cell adhesion mechanisms in sponges. She is currently a post-doctoral researcher at UC Anschutz studying craniofacial development in zebrafish. During her time in the Ph.D. program at DU, Jennyfer participated in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Mentoring Program as a mentor and advisory committee member. She served on the Graduate Women's Council, where she planned numerous women-championing events. For these efforts, she was awarded the 2018 Robin Morgan Outstanding Graduate Student Award. In her spare time Jennyfer and her husband are parents to a Shiba Inu, Zea, who provides them love and enjoyment.



## **Stanford Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> year dental student**

Hello, my name is Stanford Smith. I grew up in Dallas, Texas. After high school, I attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. My original career plan was to be an orthopedic surgeon, but after taking an internship, my ideas of what I wanted out of a career changed. I then decided to pursue dentistry. I am currently entering my third year of dental school at the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Dental Medicine. I am grateful for all the opportunities that I have been given and all the mentors who have helped me along the way.

Other attendees:

**Terri Richardson, MD**, Kaiser Permanente

**Floyd Salazar, EMS Captain**, Poudre Fire Authority

**Thanh Nguyen**, CU Anschutz School of Dental Medicine

**Nedra Chijioke**, graduate student, University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

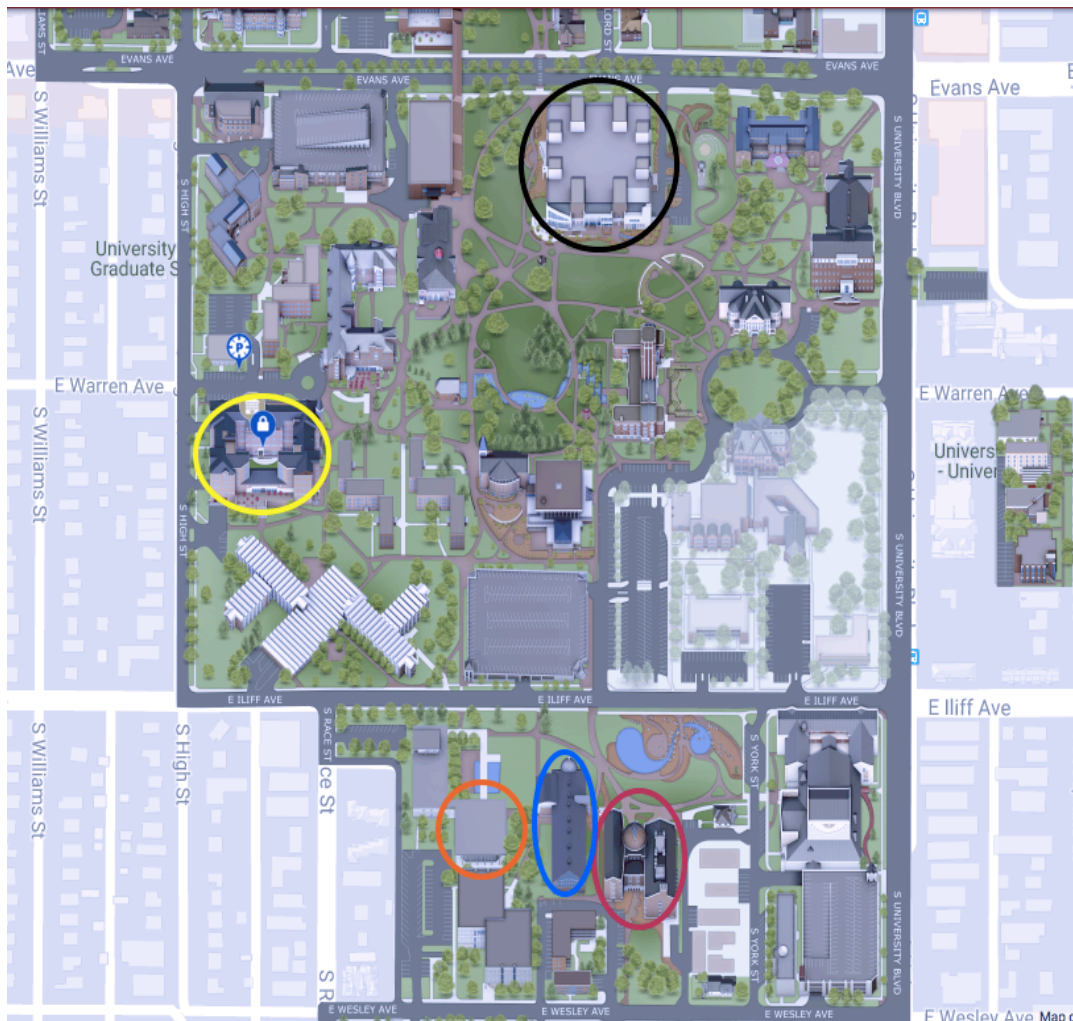
**Catherine Jarvic**, University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Vandna Jerath, MD**, Optima Women's Healthcare

# WEDNESDAY, June 26

*\* Please see detailed St. Joseph's Hospital schedule on following page*

<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
7:30 – 8:15 am	Nelson Hall	Breakfast
8:15 – 9:00 am	Nelson Hall	Travel to St. Joe's Hospital
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	SCL/St. Joseph's Hospital	Medical careers
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Nelson Hall	Dinner
7:30 – 10:00 pm	AAC 275 (Library)	Research project



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**WEDNESDAY, June 26**



**Presenting Sponsor**

9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

Welcome Breakfast with Senior Leadership Team: Volunteer/Weckbaugh  
Conference Rooms, Russell Pavillion

10:00- 10:50 a.m.- Pharmacy

11:00- 11:50 a.m.- Lab

12:00 - 12:50 p.m.- Lunch

1:00- 1:50 p.m.- Imaging

2:00- 2:50 p.m. SIM Lab Interactive Tour

3:00- 3:50 p.m.- ED/Ambulance Bay Tour

4:00 p.m.- Depart Saint Joseph Hospital

# THURSDAY, June 27



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NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>
7:30 – 8:30 am	Nelson Hall	Breakfast
9:00 am – 12:30 pm	Olin 103	College & Career Planning
12:30–1:30pm	Nelson Hall	Lunch
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Olin 103	College lecture & lab
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Nelson Hall	Dinner
7:30 – 10:00 pm	AAC 275 (Library)	Research project

*"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."*

*-Martin Luther King, Jr.*

# FRIDAY, June 28

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>
7:30 – 8:30 am	Nelson Hall	Breakfast
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Nelson Hall	Check out of dorms – take luggage to RSECS 534
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	AAC 275	Morning Session: Finish research posters <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Submit posters for printing before leaving for lunch!</i></li></ul>
12:30 – 1:30pm	Nelson Hall	Lunch
2:00 – 3:30 pm	Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging	KIHA tour and conversations with research faculty / students
3:30–4:30 pm	Olin 103	Assessment of week (CT students & DU mentors)
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Olin 103	RELAX!
5:30 – 6:00 pm	ECS 510	Set up posters
6:00 – 8:00 pm	ECS 510	Final Banquet & Poster presentations

