

## 2024 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Daaniyah Mirza

Reflecting on my transformative journey as the ASCP 2024 Carter Stephan Ainsworth Health Policy Fellow, I am profoundly honored to have had the opportunity to champion a cause close to my heart: advancing equity in healthcare. My involvement in the Pathology Clinic project stands out as a deeply rewarding experience. This groundbreaking initiative, aimed at bridging the critical gap between patients and pathologists, is redefining patient care by fostering clear, empathetic communication about diagnoses, prognoses, and treatment plans. The impact of this project is far-reaching—enhancing patient understanding while streamlining healthcare delivery.



Throughout the fellowship, I was privileged to engage in thought-provoking conversations with ASCP staff members, whose diverse perspectives and expertise enriched my understanding of the intersection between medicine, public health, and policy. These invaluable insights have not only sharpened my vision for the future but have also empowered me to align my career with my passion for driving systemic change.

This fellowship has solidified my unwavering commitment to equity in healthcare, arming me with the practical knowledge, strategic insights, and vital connections needed to propel my future endeavors. I am more determined than ever to contribute meaningfully to a healthcare system where every patient receives the care and respect they deserve.

## 2024 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Alice Mun

As a recent psychology graduate from William & Mary set to begin my Master of Public Health at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, I was thrilled to work with the ASCP Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy as a Carter Stephen Ainsworth Health Policy Fellow this summer. During my time with ASCP, I examined AI's role in the laboratory and its potential to mitigate the pathology workforce shortage. This project required me to delve deeply into the data, interpret the findings, and prepare a comprehensive report that will be included in the upcoming publication on the survey's findings. This experience not only honed my analytical skills but also gave me a profound understanding of the current challenges and opportunities within the pathology workforce. Another significant aspect of my fellowship involved researching ways to raise awareness about pathology careers among high school students, particularly those from underserved communities. I explored various educational resources and developed strategies for social media outreach aimed in addressing the future workforce needs and ensuring a more diverse and well-informed pipeline of aspiring pathologists.



Throughout my fellowship, I gained several important lessons. Juggling multiple projects with tight deadlines taught me the importance of efficient time management and prioritization. Working closely with different departments emphasized the value of teamwork and effective communication in achieving shared goals. Facing IT issues and other unexpected challenges highlighted the need for flexibility and quick problem-solving skills.

Overall, the fellowship was instrumental in strengthening my critical thinking and research abilities. Engaging in meaningful projects allowed me to apply my theoretical knowledge to real-world situations, enhancing my capacity to analyze data, synthesize information, and develop actionable insights. These skills will be invaluable as I advance in my MPH program and future public health endeavors.

I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to Edna Garcia, Iman Kundu, Debby Basu, Danielle Jackson, and Jenny Diaz. Working with these individuals has truly been a blessing, and their professional insights and unyielding support has made this fellowship an incredible educational experience that I will never forget.



## 2023 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Vorapat Vorapanya

As a pathology resident physician and public health graduate in health policy and management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I was delighted to be the 2023 Carter Stephen Ainsworth Health Policy Summer Fellow at the ASCP Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy. This fellowship was the perfect fit for me as I was looking for the opportunity to integrate my background in public health with my pathology training.



Throughout the program, I had the privilege of collaborating with experts in the field including Dr. Ali Brown, Liz Waibel, and ISTP Team, conducting in-depth research from multiple sources, and analyzing data from the American Board of Pathology and publicly available job postings to gain insights of the current workforce and market demand of pathologists in the United States. I navigated into the challenges and opportunities facing pathologists in the United States and barriers preventing US-trained international medical graduates (IMG) from entering the workforce which led to inevitable workforce exit.

The program provided a platform for me to develop critical thinking skills, enhance my research capabilities, and deepen my understanding of the current workforce situation and policy-related issues. I was able to contribute meaningful discussions on strategies to address workforce shortages and probable solutions to expand the workforce.

Even though the fellowship was offered remotely, and I am in residency training during the fellowship which made scheduling challenging. Both the ASCP and my residency program were very accommodating which I am grateful for. I appreciated the mentorship and support I received which not only strengthened my passion for both public health policy and pathology but also equipped me with practical skills that will be instrumental in my future career as a pathologist with a strong interest in health policy. I highly recommend this fellowship to anyone, especially resident pathologists, who also has a passion for health policy.

## 2022 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Haleigh Mauldin

For the summer of 2022, I worked with the American Society for Clinical Pathology's Institute of Science, Technology, and Public Policy as one of their Carter Stephen Ainsworth Health Policy Summer Fellows. I was able to work with ASCP in between the first and second year of my MSPH in Health Policy program with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. During my first year of the program, I worked as a Medical Lab Technician, which is how I learned of ASCP. I was particularly excited about being accepted into the fellowship because it melded my passion for public health policy with my background experience in the laboratory.



Throughout the fellowship I worked on a project about student loan forgiveness programs that are available to laboratory professionals. The purpose was to be able to quantify the loan forgiveness opportunities compared to other healthcare fields to see if ASCP should explore lobbying for loan forgiveness programs specifically for allied health fields. I was able to research what programs were available at the federal and state levels, compile the data, and present my findings and recommendations to members of the Institute. I also was allowed to participate in meetings that showed the reality of working in the policy sphere and the thought process behind constructing responses as an organization.

While the fellowship was fully virtual this year, it still proved to be an invaluable experience. I was able to put into practice things that I had learned throughout my program. It also gave me experience working in a virtual workplace environment that I hadn't experienced before, which is incredibly useful considering many workplaces are fully remote now. Overall, my experience with ASCP was fantastic; everyone was nice and genuinely excited to have us on board.

### Folasade Fashina

This fellowship has been a one-of-a-kind experience. I greatly appreciated the support and care given by my supervisors, Iman, and Edna as well as the genuine passion exhibited by the team for the work they do. I can confidently say that I am walking away from this fellowship as a more refined researcher and professional and I hope that I have left ASCP with something as well. Thank you to everyone I interacted with for being so open and especially to Matt and the rest of the team for being receptive to my suggestions. I am forever grateful for this opportunity.



## 2021 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Joel Fuentes

This summer, as the 2021 Carter Stephen Ainsworth Health Policy Fellow at the ASCP Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy, I had the distinct privilege of working with a team of pathologists, public policy experts, and public health professionals to assess trends in the growth (or lack thereof) of the clinical laboratory workforce. In line with a groundbreaking clinical laboratory workforce study released by ASCP and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, I worked on four distinct projects that expanded on the recommendations set forth by the report's findings. By synthesizing IPEDS Data published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) with data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), I was able to create a Diversity Tracker Tool that can be used to predict trends in diversity for clinical laboratory fields such as Phlebotomy. Additionally, in an effort to increase the visibility of these clinical roles, I also created a catalog of Student Support Organizations in the DMV area that would benefit from future partnership with ASCP as part of an expansion of the ["What's My Next?"](#) Initiative. In all, I am proud of my contributions to the incredible work that is being done at ASCP, and I can't wait to see how these projects are expanded upon in the years to come.



Although my participation as a member of the Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy was remote, I felt as though my input was always welcomed and that my team was always a Zoom call away to offer their guidance and to share their expertise. Honestly, I can't think of a more opportune time to have immersed myself in the field of Pathology than amidst a global pandemic. I am eternally grateful to the Ainsworth Family and to the ISTP Team for allowing me this unique opportunity to bolster both my research and writing skills.

## 2019 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Alison Gassett

During the summer of 2019, I worked as one of the Carter Stephen Ainsworth Fellows for the American Society for Clinical Pathology's Institute of Science, Technology, and Public Policy in Washington D.C. I am medical technologist, so I was familiar with some of the work done by ASCP, however through this experience I learned so much more about the ways that ASCP is impacting the field through their research and public policy work.



My main focus during the fellowship was a project assessing the racial and ethnic diversity of the medical laboratory workforce. First, I conducted research on diversity in other health care professions and efforts to foster a more inclusive workforce in order to address health disparities in the United States. Next, I analyzed results from the ASCP 2017 Wage Survey, looking at the diversity of the workforce in different parts of the country, as well as the impact of race on career advancement and occupation. Finally, I summarized my findings in a written report, and created graphs and other visuals which I presented to the D.C. office staff at the end of the fellowship. I also attended policy briefings on a variety of topics, both on Capitol Hill and with other organizations. I summarized one of these briefings in the ASCP ePolicy piece "Rural Health Panel to Examine Workforce, Reimbursement".

During my visit to D.C. I was also able to explore the city. I visited nearly all of the Smithsonian museums and many of the monuments and memorials on the National Mall. I was able to celebrate Independence Day by attending a parade and fireworks display. This summer was also the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, so I was lucky to attend several events in the city celebrating this event.

This fellowship served as my practicum for my Master of Public Health degree and was a great opportunity to apply the knowledge I had gained during my program. I was able to improve my research, writing and data analysis skills. The fellowship was very organized, which helped me stay on top of weekly deadlines. I was given a lot of independence to decide how I would complete my project, but staff were always available when I had questions. Everyone in the office was very welcoming and went out of their way to explain their many ongoing projects so I could learn more about the organization. I feel like they really valued my experience as a medical technologist and it was encouraging to see people so passionate about improving the field.



## 2019 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Anna Kemmerer

My name is Anna Kemmerer and I am an undergraduate student at Georgetown University studying Healthcare Management and Policy with a minor in Psychology. This past summer, I worked on a laboratory personnel recruitment project for the Science, Technology and Public Policy branch of the American Society of Clinical Pathology. I researched the higher education necessary for laboratory professionals to raise awareness and provide resources for high school and collegiate students interested in the field. To further encourage students, I curated a list of scholarships and grants available for students interested in this career path. Lastly, I established a connection with schools in the DMV by creating a contact database of high schools and colleges within the area. On the side of performing research for my project, I attended various policy briefings held by institutions such as the Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Academy of Sciences and the Bipartisan policy institute to write articles for ASCP's ePolicy monthly newsletter.

My experience at ASCP was wonderful; I enjoyed working with a small team and the location of the office. My one suggestion for future fellows would be to involve students in a greater number of side projects to expose them to various career roles. I really enjoyed attending the health policy events which allowed me to explore many different careers in the healthcare field. I think the number of events attended could be increased or involving the fellow in smaller side projects around the office.



# 2018 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

## Mollie Davidson

As I entered into this summer, I was faced with the excitement of moving to a big city and starting a new fellowship; however, I was fairly unsure of what to expect. In the past, I lived in the fairly small towns of Clemson and Summerville, South Carolina, so this would be a large change for me. I had primarily a science background, meaning that this position would require me to work slightly out of my comfort zone.



In the beginning of June, I moved into GWU housing with strangers I would soon call friends and started my fellowship at ASCP. Immediately, everyone in the office kindly greeted me and provided the other Fellow and me with the chance to get to know everyone in the office. That same day, I received my projects that I would be expected to work on and complete throughout the summer. The two projects I received focused on the impact of the opioid epidemic on pathologists and laboratory professionals, as well as a study examining the laboratory workforce trends from 1960 through present day. Each project required detailed research of various topics and analyzing the information. My research generally entailed online research of published articles, but I also received the opportunity to visit and pull articles from various archives in the National Library of Medicine. While I allocated time to each project to meet weekly deadlines and organizing my collected research in a form to report to other staff, I quickly realized it would demand variations in my normal researching techniques. Throughout the summer, I continued to collect information, outline trends, and draw conclusions from my research.

My project on the impact of the opioid epidemic on pathologists and laboratory professionals was especially interesting, as I've previously been employed at a pharmacy and I aspire to become a physician. The research I completed revealed the need for a larger workforce and funding needs for pathologists and laboratory professionals. The data demonstrated that efforts toward the epidemic have had an effect; however, continued future efforts will be needed. The findings from the laboratory workforce study presented evidence that the workforce has been struggling with similar challenges throughout the previous six decades; and there need to be efforts toward creating a practical solution that will actually provide meaningful results.

The two months I spent in D.C. were filled with new food finds, adventures through the city, and the visits to historical museums. From the moment I arrived, until the day I left, I found myself admiring impressive architecture and discovering monuments and memorials I had never seen before. The activities and sightseeing opportunities in D.C. are endless, making the summer pass in the blink of an eye.

I sincerely appreciate my time spent at ASCP. I cannot express how helpful and kind the staff was throughout the summer. Their feedback allowed me to grow personally and improve my skill set. Every person in the office gave me the impression that they would go out of their way to not only assist me with my projects at ASCP, but also do their best to help me excel in the future. I learned a great deal about health policy, the laboratory profession, and professional style writing. I felt as though my work was meaningful, and I could collaborate with the team at ASCP while also having the chance to work independently. The opportunities provided by this fellowship were unlike others I have experienced, and I believe that my time spent at ASCP will be impactful on my future path. My experience there has been invaluable, and I truly enjoyed getting to know Jeff, Matt, Edna, Iman, and Raven. I can only speak highly of this organization and the people I had the privilege of meeting. My only suggestion for the future would be to publicize the fellowship to a greater extent and potentially move up the notification of decision date, as it takes time to arrange housing and finances.



## 2018 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Benjamin Harper

The internship at the American Society for Clinical Pathology's Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy gave me an incredible professional and exciting experience in policy and research. I interned at ASCP from June 2017 to May 2018 and included my internship experience as a capstone for graduation from the University of Maryland, College Park. I entered the internship with goals of improving data analysis skills and professional writing, creating surveys, and strengthening my abilities as a public health researcher. I met these goals by working on projects closely with my preceptor and the staff at ASCP on their Choosing Wisely initiative, policy action alerts, and reporting on briefings and conferences on a broad range of topics in health policy and technology impacting patient outcomes.



I enjoyed getting a vast amount of experience in health policy from a new perspective. Coming from a background in community health without much laboratory experience, I was able to learn a great amount of information and combine it with my academics. The most helpful thing from my internship at ASCP was being able to conduct a study on access to medical laboratory services in Indian Health Service regions. Developing a research protocol, questionnaires, and interacting with the Institutional Review Board are all steps to developing important transferrable professional skills further in a career in the public health community. I would recommend interns take this opportunity to investigate a gap in research important to them and the laboratory community using the opportunities provided by ASCP.

## 2018 ASCP Summer Fellowship Reviews

### Deanna Giraldi

This summer, I worked as the Carter Stephen Ainsworth Fellow for the American Society for Clinical Pathology's Institute of Science, Technology, and Public Policy in Washington, D.C. Each week, I spent four days researching and writing in my ASCP office and one day at a conference or hearing in D.C. My specific role involved conducting research, crafting recommendations and other educational resources on a variety of issues, attending briefings on Capitol Hill, and providing support for ongoing programs. I had the opportunity to write an ePolicy brief entitled, "VHA Subcommittee Endorses Additional Pharmacological Testing," which has since been published in ASCP's July 2018 ePolicy edition. In addition to this ePolicy piece, I also was able to publish a paper with my colleagues on healthcare disparities across the United States entitled, "Disparities in Rural Health Care: A Look at the Field of Laboratory Medicine."



In addition to my work as a Fellow, I created a "D.C. intern bucket list," with the goal of exploring Washington, D.C. and delving into the neighborhoods surrounding me. I visited 12 museums, including the National Portrait Gallery, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the National Museum of African American Culture and History. I also visited eight memorials including the FDR, MLK, Korean War, World War II, Lincoln, and Jefferson monuments. I went to a Washington Nationals baseball game, attended a Fall Out Boy concert, and was in the city during the Capitols' Stanley Cup victory. I attended the "Stop Family Separation" rally in Lafayette Square in front of the White House, in which thousands gathered to denounce the atrocities occurring on the border. During this protest, Lin Manuel Miranda, the creator of Hamilton, America Ferrera, and Alicia Keys each spoke about the importance of keeping families together.

This fellowship presented me with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience and insight into the intersections of science, policy, and practice in laboratory medicine, while building and strengthening professional skills, particularly in research and analysis. As a Fellow, I was afforded numerous opportunities, including working alongside the most supportive coworkers, building on prior knowledge while learning new subject matter every day, and exploring the city.