

THE NYSPHC BIMONTHLY BULLETIN

A NYSDOH Fellow Digest



Welcome to our new
NYSDOH Fellows!

Welcome!

We are excited to have you onboard and can't wait to support and showcase all the amazing work you will do during your Fellowship!

- Samora Mayberry, CEH
- Jefferson Garcia, OPH
- Avinash Lekram, CCH
- Ericka Acevedo, CEH
- Michael Adams, CEH
- Mahnoor Nasir, CEH
- Aswathi Nair, CEH
- Ankita Dahiwade, NYSPHC

WHAT'S NEW!

We have created a new email address specifically for you, our DOH Fellows!

For any DOH Fellow Travel or Purchasing inquiries, please contact:

NYSPHC_DOH_FELLOWS@health.ny.gov



Public Health Essentials Updates

- September Cohort - Ends on 1/17/23
- October Cohort - Ends on 2/14/23
- November Cohort - Ends on 3/14/23
- January Cohort - Starts on 1/25/23
- February Cohort - Starts on 2/22/23

NYSPHC Resources

- [NYSPHC Website](#)
- [NYSDOH Website](#)
- [NYSPHC LinkedIn Group](#)
- [Fellow Training & Resources](#)
- [Resources by Region](#)



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT!

“

Kenneth Okonkwo

AIDS Institute, Hepatitis B & C Surveillance Program

My fellowship research focus is on characterization of viral hepatitis coinfection. My research analyzes information in case report forms to present aggregated information by disease, key demographic characteristics, selected risk factors, timeliness of diagnosis etc., to better understand trends in diseases. Results and findings from my analysis could be used to inform public health programs that will prevent diseases, improve testing access, link already infected cases to care or treatment and enhance overall surveillance activities. My supervisor and I have prepared a manuscript titled ‘Characteristics of persons coinfecting with Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in New York State, excluding New York City, 2010–2021’ for publication, so be on the lookout!

Working in the Hepatitis Surveillance Unit has broadened my interest in epidemiology, particularly, disease surveillance. Going forward, I see myself involved in more epidemiological studies, ideally in communicable disease.

If you had to choose one superpower, what would it be?

Teleportation! Not because of gas prices

”



“

Shani Fields

Center for Community Health, Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control

I am currently working with the NYS Dept. of Health in the Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control (BCPC) located in Menands, NY. I began working with the Bureau in May 2022. Along with many other programs, BCPC oversees contracts with 21 grantees. The grantees are expected to partner with community-based organizations to provide free cancer screenings for individuals who are un/underinsured within their service region. My work is to assist in the engagement efforts with partners and stakeholders that work within and for communities that are historically medically underserved and disproportionately impacted by cancer. My particular focus is to work with Black communities to address the gaps and needs of those who missed/delayed their cancer screenings.

I am totally committed to staying with the Dept. of Health. I would like to stay with BCPC. The staff is so supportive and welcoming. The Fellowship Program and the Bureau provided me with a smooth transition into a field I was not familiar with. Additionally, I would like to work with The Health Equity Unit, The AIDS Institute and Maternal and Child Health in the future

If you had to choose one superpower, what would it be?

I definitely choose teleportation. I love to travel and hate the process of getting there and home.



”

Fellows in the Community

Cecilia Guthrie, DOH Fellow Center on Community Health, Division of Family Health

“ I organized a holiday book swap amongst my coworkers for 2022. I wanted to do this as a fun highlight among the end of year craziness. I was in a book club in my time before I moved to Albany, and we did a holiday book swap among members. It was always a highlight of my January to start the year with my gifted book. I wanted to bring this experience to my coworkers on the ‘Dream Team’ here at the NYS Perinatal Quality Collaborative (NYSPQC). Books have been a bonding topic since I started my fellowship here, from talking about what we’ve read or are reading to sharing lists and recommendations. I can’t wait to see how what I get and talk about it with my team :)”

* If you are doing interesting things within your community, we'd love to shout you out! *

NYSPHC Events Calendar

X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	⊖				



Don't forget to check the NYSPHC Events Calendar for more events!

Upcoming Events

NYSPHC New Fellow & Supervisor Orientation

Fri, February 3, 2023 | 10:00AM-11:30AM

[Register Here](#)



Data-Based Decision Making (NYSPHC Educational Series Session)

Wed, February 8, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:00PM

[Register Here](#)

NYSPHC NYSDOH Consortium

Fri, March 10, 2023 | 10:00AM-12:00PM

[Register Here](#)



Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (NYSPHC Educational Series Session)

Wed, April 12, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:00PM

[Register Here](#)

First Annual New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Summit

Empire State Plaza
Convention Center
Albany, NY
November
15 & 16, 2022



Visit the [Annual NYSPHC Summit](#) tab to view the full recap from Summit and access session recordings!

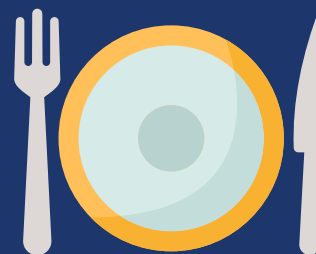


NYSPHC NYSDOH Fellows

Thank you to all of our Fellows, Supervisors, Mentors & program partners for attending our first annual NYSPHC Summit! We would not have been able to make this event possible without all of your hard work and contributions. We look forward to continued collaboration in making the NYSPHC program a success!

-Hillary, Shakira & Ali

At the Table with Ali



Classic Winter Pot Roast

Ingredients:

- 4-5 pound chuck roast
- 2 tablespoons avocado oil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 pound carrots peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes (or sweet potatoes!)
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 cups beef broth



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
2. Season the chuck roast with the salt, pepper, & thyme.
3. Add the avocado oil to a pan and heat. When hot, add in the roast and brown, for 4-5 mins on each side (can brown in a slow cooker instead!).
4. Add carrots, potatoes, garlic, and beef broth and cook for 3-3 1/2 hours.

In Loving Memory

Cecelia Marie Skott

March 31, 1963 - December 25, 2022

*"Living means learning to hold the astonishingly beautiful
and unbearably hard things in the same palm."*

-Suleika Jaouad



Cecelia M. Skott began her New York State (NYS) Public Health Corps (PHC) fellowship in April 2022 as a Senior Public Health Coordinator with the Bureau of Community Chronic Disease Prevention (BCCDP) at Riverview Center in Menands. Cecelia was part of a dynamic team contributing to the coordination of statewide obesity prevention

initiatives in schools and communities, and she managed an innovative project addressing pandemic-related loneliness and isolation in older New Yorkers. She also recently joined the leadership team of BCCDP's Racial Justice Community of Practice. Prior to becoming a NYSPHC fellow, Cecelia spent just over a year as a Health Program Administrator with Health Research Incorporated (HRI) Grants Administration Unit at the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) where she managed fiscal and administrative aspects of large federal grants.

Cecelia found employment with HRI after a 33-year career as a Senior Associate with the State University of New York Center for International Development (SUNY/CID) where she led large global initiatives focused on democracy and economic modernization, global climate change, HIV prevention, substance use prevention, and organizational leadership. SUNY/CID lost its funding and closed in September 2021, six months after the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Cecelia was a delightful colleague and a friend to all. Smart, engaging, dedicated, and kind, her diverse background and experience was inspiring, and her vast knowledge and insight was refreshing. A world traveler, a sports fan, and an active outdoorsperson, Cecelia often regaled her colleagues with stories of her global adventures, hikes, and especially pickleball games. She was an enthusiastic learner and was proud to complete the Public Health Essentials Certificate Program delivered by Cornell University. She was honored to be an NYSPHC fellow and was looking forward to her future in public health.

In a profoundly sad and devastating turn of events, Cecelia was diagnosed with an aggressive, late-stage cancer in October. She passed away surrounded by her loving family and friends on December 25th at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany. Christmas was her favorite day of the year. She leaves behind a son, a brother and sister-in-law, a sister and brother-in-law, three nieces, a great-niece, a nephew, and countless colleagues and friends from all over the world. I am deeply grateful to be one of them.

Susan Millstein,

Diabetes Program Manager, Bureau of Community Chronic Disease Prevention

FYO

[HRI Careers Page](#)

[HRI Payroll](#)

[HRI Human Resources](#)

[HRI Travel](#)

[SAP Litmos](#)

We're on LinkedIn!



New York State Public
Health Corps
Fellowship Program



[Join the NYSPHC LinkedIn Group!](#)

Farewell Grads!

Samantha Watson
Carolyn Trinkus
Madison Hrysko
Kristen Felker
Amanda Kinsella
Hnin Wai Lwin Myo

"I got great opportunities to have hands-on experience dealing with updating the New York State Communicable Diseases Surveillance Program by actively participating in the "Diaper Project," urgently seeking polio cases in Rockland and Orange County. With such experience added to previous ones I was able to gain a position as a Program Research Specialist III at the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, Cancer Services Program! So I must say, "A BIG Thank you, New York State Public Health Corps Program."

-Hnin Wai Lwin Myo

Stay Connected with Us!

Contact us any time with questions, comments,
or Fellow Spotlight & In Your Community stories of your own!



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