



Spring 2026

Greetings from the Dean

Spring reminds us that growth is grounded in a strong foundation. Across our community—from the research taking place in the labs to the policy conversations shaping the future of health—we are advancing ideas and actions that strengthen health and well-being. In the Jesuit tradition, this work is guided by a deep respect for the dignity of every person and a commitment to the common good.

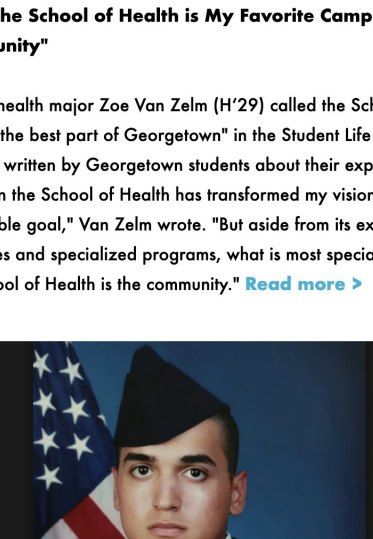
Advancing a healthier and more equitable future rarely happens overnight. Much like the legislative and policy cycles that influence the field, meaningful progress is often the result of persistence, reflection, and a shared sense of purpose. Our values call us to engage thoughtfully with the challenges of our time, forming leaders who approach complexity with curiosity, compassion, and a willingness to serve. For many in our community, this work is more than a profession—it is a calling to be people for others, especially in the wake of uncertainty.

I hope you enjoy this Spring issue of *Communitas* and find inspiration in the stories of resilience, leadership, and service. Together, we continue the important work of forming leaders who will advance health, justice, and human flourishing in communities - locally, nationally and globally.

With gratitude,

Christopher J. King, Ph.D., MHS, FACHE
Dean, School of Health

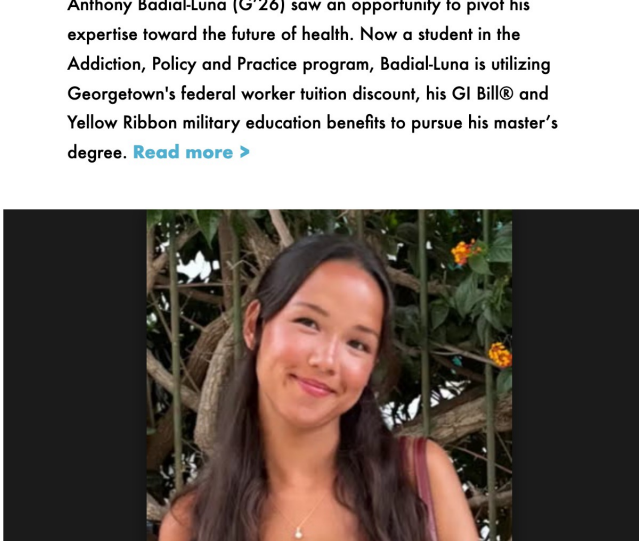
SOHdean@georgetown.edu



Connect with the School of Health on Social Media:



OUR HOYAS



"Why the School of Health is My Favorite Campus Community"

Global health major Zoe Van Zelm (H'29) called the School of Health "the best part of Georgetown" in the Student Life Blog, which is written by Georgetown students about their experiences. "Being in the School of Health has transformed my vision into an achievable goal," Van Zelm wrote. "But aside from its extensive resources and specialized programs, what is most special about the School of Health is the community." [Read more >](#)



Finding Renewed Purpose From Federal Service to Health Policy

When shifts in the federal workforce led to a reduction in force, Anthony Badial-Luna (G'26) saw an opportunity to pivot his expertise toward the future of health. Now a student in the Addiction, Policy and Practice program, Badial-Luna is utilizing Georgetown's federal worker tuition discount, his GI Bill® and Yellow Ribbon military education benefits to pursue his master's degree. [Read more >](#)



Global Health Major Selected as 2026 Education and Social Justice Research Fellow

The Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching, and Service has selected School of Health student Myha Hill (H'28) as a 2026 Education and Social Justice Research Fellow. The fellowship supports Georgetown undergraduates who spend three weeks during the summer conducting interviews on best practices at the intersection of education and social justice. [Read more >](#)



Students Named 2025-2026 Maeve Kennedy McKean Global Health Award Recipients

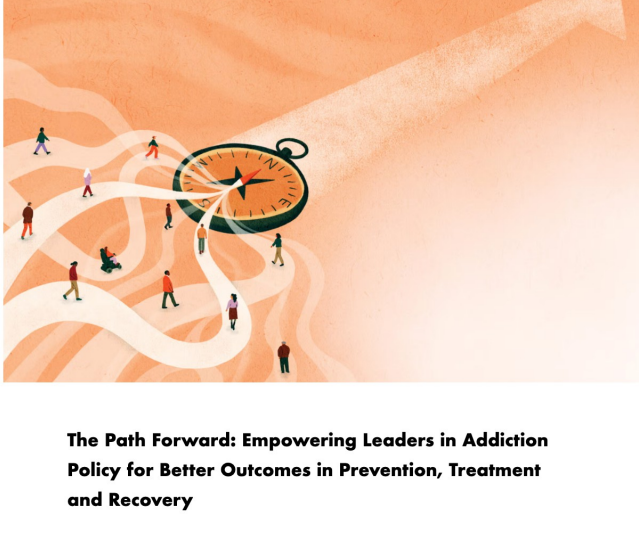
The Georgetown University Global Health Institute named Global Health undergraduates Jordan Poi (H'27) and Kayla Wantumi (H'27) as the 2025-2026 recipients of the Maeve Kennedy McKean Global Health Award, which supports student-led international fieldwork addressing global health and human rights issues. [Read more >](#)



Drug Repurposing with AI

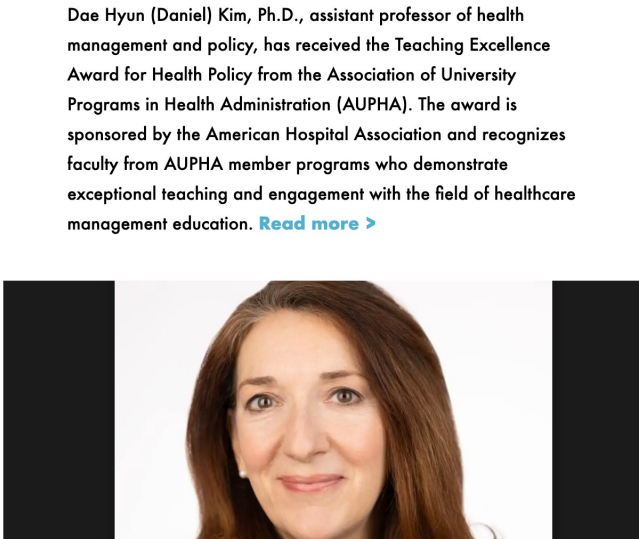
David Fajgenbaum (NHS'07) co-founded Every Cure to save and improve lives by harnessing AI to identify existing drugs that can be used to treat devastating diseases. Every Cure evaluates their AI predictions in the lab and clinical trials when necessary and helps deliver treatments to patients. [Read more >](#)

OUR VALUES



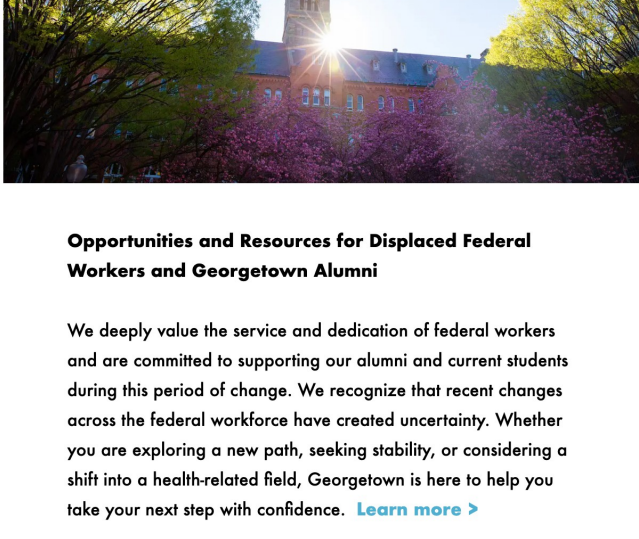
From Patient Bedside to Boardroom: How Personal Experience Fueled a School of Health Student's Journey

For many students, the path to a graduate degree is a straight line from their undergraduate studies. For Katie Kalhorn (C'23, G'27), a student in the master's of science in health systems administration program, her journey was defined by pivots, a family medical emergency, and an unshakeable calling back to the Hilltop. [Read more >](#)



A Classroom Without Walls: Students Study Health Care from Denmark to Greece

As juniors in the Health Care Management and Policy program, Dhruvi Parikh (H'27), Nita Nalamothu (H'27), and Sophia Zhang (H'27) spent the past semester studying abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, and found that stepping away from the U.S. health care model is one of the most effective ways to understand it. [Read more >](#)



A Collaboration That Prioritizes Global Health and Well-Being

Recognizing the power of human connection, empathy, and purpose-driven leadership through innovation and education, the School of Health and the Power of Words Foundation are collaborating to advance emotional intelligence as a foundation for global health and well-being. [Read more >](#)

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP



Two Alumni Earn Fulbright Awards to Advance Global Health Research

Sahana Arumani (H'25, G'25) and Shagun Gandhi (H'25) have been awarded Fulbright grants to pursue research in New Zealand and India. Their successes were also recently highlighted in the *Winter 2026 Georgetown Health Magazine*. They are among the 42 Fulbright recipients from across the university, making *Georgetown the No. 1 producer of awardees* in the Fulbright Student Program for 2026. [Read more >](#)

Global Health Student Uncovers Barriers to Sickle Cell Care in Rural Ghana

A curiosity sparked by a childhood health scare led Tara-Yesomi Wenegiemie (G'26), a student in the Master of Science in Global Health program, thousands of miles from Washington, DC, to research sickle cell disease at a district hospital in Ghana. [Read more >](#)

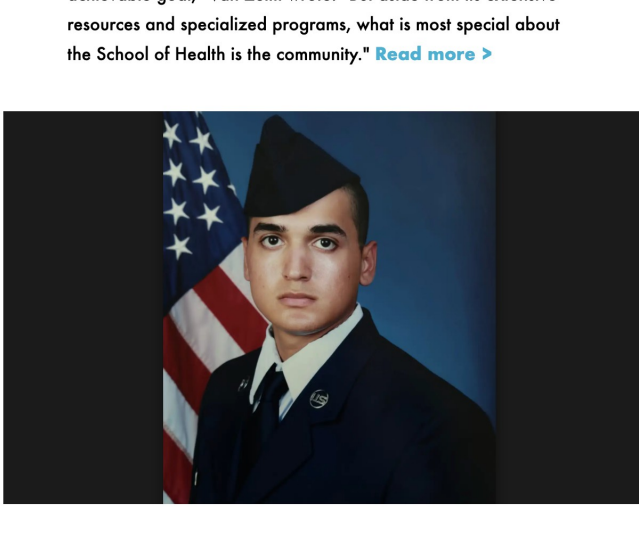
Human Science Student Presents Foundational Cancer Research at International Conference

Keerthana Ramanathan (H'26) presented her team's foundational cancer research at the 37th Annual Conference of the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS 2025) in Bangkok, Thailand. The IPVS is the primary international research conference for human papillomavirus (HPV). [Read more >](#)

The Path Forward: Empowering Leaders in Addiction Policy for Better Outcomes in Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

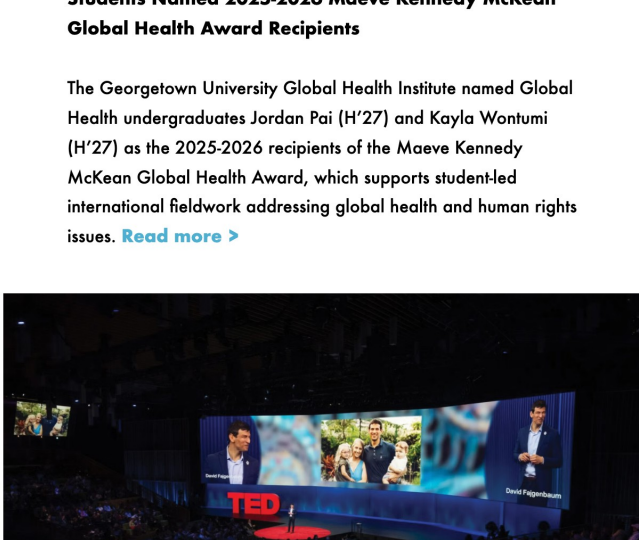
Drawing on her experience working in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Regina LaBelle, J.D. (L'92), established the Center on Addiction and Public Policy at Georgetown Law's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law before creating the School of Health's interdisciplinary Master of Science program in Addiction Policy & Practice. [Read more >](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS



Kim Receives National Teaching Excellence Award

Dae Hyun (Daniel) Kim, Ph.D., assistant professor of health management and policy, has received the Teaching Excellence Award for Health Policy from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA). The award is sponsored by the American Hospital Association and recognizes faculty from AUPHA member programs who demonstrate exceptional teaching and engagement with the field of healthcare management education. [Read more >](#)



LaBelle Honored for Work Leading Substance Use Education

The Association for Multidisciplinary Research and Education in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) awarded School of Health professor Regina LaBelle, J.D. (L'92), with its 2025 John P. McGovern Award for Excellence in Medical Education. LaBelle directs the Addiction Policy and Practice Program, where she also teaches. She is a founding director of the Center on Addiction and Public Policy at the O'Neill Institute at Georgetown Law. [Read more >](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



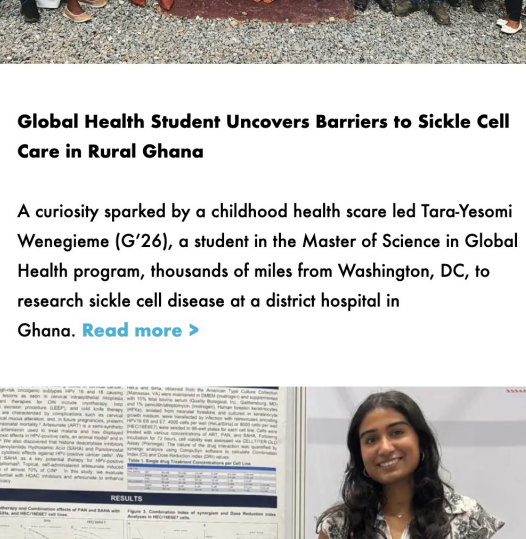
Opportunities and Resources for Displaced Federal Workers and Georgetown Alumni

We deeply value the service and dedication of federal workers and are committed to supporting our alumni and current students during this period of change. We recognize that recent changes across the federal workforce have created uncertainty. Whether you are exploring a new path, seeking stability, or considering a shift into a health-related field, Georgetown is here to help you take your next step with confidence. [Learn more >](#)



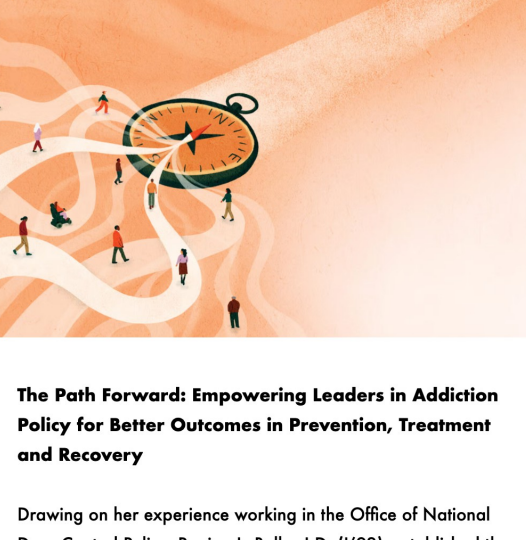
Academic Program Applications

Learn more about our programs at the [Bachelor's](#), [Master's](#) and [Doctoral](#) levels, as well as our [Accelerated B.S./M.S. Pathways](#), [Graduate Certificate Programs](#) and [minors](#).



Explore the Winter 2026 Georgetown Health Magazine

In the new edition, read about the work of our Georgetown programs and alumni, including breast cancer research, family medicine, and more.



SOH Apparel at Georgetown University Bookstore

School of Health t-shirts are available at the Georgetown University Bookstore!

Georgetown's School of Health is convening diverse perspectives to better understand urgent challenges to human health and well being—and to find solutions. Your support is essential as we prepare future leaders to improve the health of communities near and far.

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