

Atlantic Fellows

FOR HEALTH EQUITY



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**

Building Leaders.
Creating Solutions.
Growing Communities.



Atlantic Fellows

FOR HEALTH EQUITY



Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity develops global leaders who understand the foundations of health inequity and have the knowledge, skills and courage to build more equitable organizations and communities. The fellowship does so by providing intensive learning and growth experiences and connecting fellows in a cohort network as they move forward in their careers. The fellowship includes both U.S. and global fellows and addresses the continuum of local and universal issues related to health equity.

Letter from the Director

It is hard to put into words what 2025 has asked of us.

This year was, in many ways, a difficult one. Around the world, we witnessed deepening conflict, mounting pressures on public health systems, and growing uncertainty about the future of global health. Closer to home, many in our community carried their own private burdens. We grieved the loss of our beloved fellow and friend, Felicia Mburu, and were reminded just how precious and fragile this work and our time together truly are.

And yet, through it all, our community showed up.

At our Senior Fellow Convening in Ethiopia, fellows came together to exchange ideas and reconnect with purpose, examining how their leadership has evolved and how they want to shape the years ahead. We expanded opportunities for Senior Fellows to receive coaching, creating structured space to consider career transitions and next steps, recognizing that sustaining this work requires intentional support.

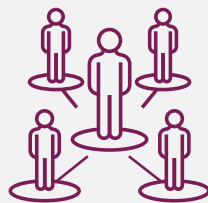
Later in the year, we traveled to the Philippines for our Final Convening, where our newest graduating fellows marked the culmination of their fellowship year — fifteen courageous leaders willing to confront the root causes of inequity in their communities.

Behind the scenes, 2025 was a year of reexamination and renewal. We took a close look at the fellowship itself, launching a new curriculum to reflect our own learning as a program and respond to the changing environment for health equity leaders. We have deepened our commitment to innovation and sustainability, themes our fellows have consistently told us are essential to carrying this work forward over the long term.

As we turn to our tenth anniversary in 2026–2027, we look forward to gathering our fellowship community to reflect on where we have been and to prepare for what comes next. If this year has shown us anything, it is that the strength of this fellowship has never been in a single convening or program. It is in the relationships and the way this community rallies around one another in moments of celebration and in periods of struggle.

Thank you for being part of this work.

**IN 2025, AFHE
SENIOR FELLOWS'
HEALTH EQUITY
WORK SERVED OVER**



**35 MILLION
PEOPLE**

Across the Globe



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guenevere Burke".

Guenevere Burke
Executive Director



Contents

FELLOWSHIP

PAGE

4

- About the Fellowship
- Our Vision, Mission and Values
- AFHE By the Numbers
- The Fellowship Journey
- Senior Fellows

IMPACT

PAGE

12

- Health Equity in Action
- AFHE Fellow Collaborations
- Fellowship Year Impact
- 2025 By the Numbers

GLOBAL NETWORK

PAGE

18

- Charter Committee
- Faculty & Staff
- Fitz's Legacy
- Fellowship Directory
- Our Home



SECTION

1



I've been trying to put into words how much this fellowship changed me, and honestly I'm still struggling to do so. When I first joined, I carried a cynical, pessimistic mindset, typical among Ministries of Health people everywhere. If there's one thing I'm taking with me (and trust me there were many), it's a can-do mindset and the realization of the opportunities lying ahead."

ALI ALSHALAH '25



About Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity

OUR VISION

The profound, life-limiting disparities in health and health care that exist throughout the world can be mitigated. This can be accomplished by people — determined people, with the appropriate training, strategically located in health sectors around the world. The product of their work, in a thousand different settings, will be years of life gained and quality of life enhanced for millions of individuals, families, and communities.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the fellowship is to develop global leaders who understand the foundations of health inequity and have the knowledge, skills, and courage to build more equitable organizations and communities.

The program will do so by providing intensive learning and growth experiences and connecting fellows in a cohort network as they move forward in their careers. The fellowship addresses the continuum of local and universal issues related to health equity.

OUR VALUES

Our program and fellows' guiding values include equity, inclusivity and an action orientation, shared pillars of the Atlantic Fellows community. The Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity also emphasizes courage, diversity, creativity, and humility. These values are fundamental to, and borne of, the program's interdisciplinary and intercultural approach to learning, community building and striving to overcome global challenges.



OUR APPROACH

The Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity was founded on the principle that more action is needed to combat inequity in health. In practice, this means we pair any discussion of disparities with an exploration of solutions. The development of a cohort and fellowship network is important to establish more leaders, inspire new approaches and lend support when challenges arise. We envision a world in which the global community and its leaders strive to establish the conditions for all individuals and communities to achieve their full potential for health and well-being.

We believe that while some leaders may be born, leaders can also be developed. The leadership curriculum introduces a powerful set of practices that have endured for centuries across different contexts. It centers on the power of relationships and people to envision and create change. People are ultimately at the center of our work as a fellowship program.

15

AFHE fellows
per year



One-year non-residential fellowship program offered by the George Washington University



Open to early and mid-career leaders involved in work related to health everywhere in the world

AFHE BY THE NUMBERS

Since the fellowship began in 2017 ...

151
TOTAL
FELLOWS



AFHE fellows
Received

331

**AWARDS, FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES
AND OTHER
RECOGNITION**



817

PUBLICATIONS

Produced by AFHE fellows

 **484** Opinion pieces

 **372** Research & news articles

 **61** Books & reports



2025 marked the first year of our partnership with BMJ Leader to share insights from our Equity Talks in a special blog series. To read the full series, visit blogs.bmj.com/bmjleader/category/equity-talks



920

MEDIA MENTIONS



613

**PRESENTATIONS /
WEBINARS**
Given by AFHE Fellows

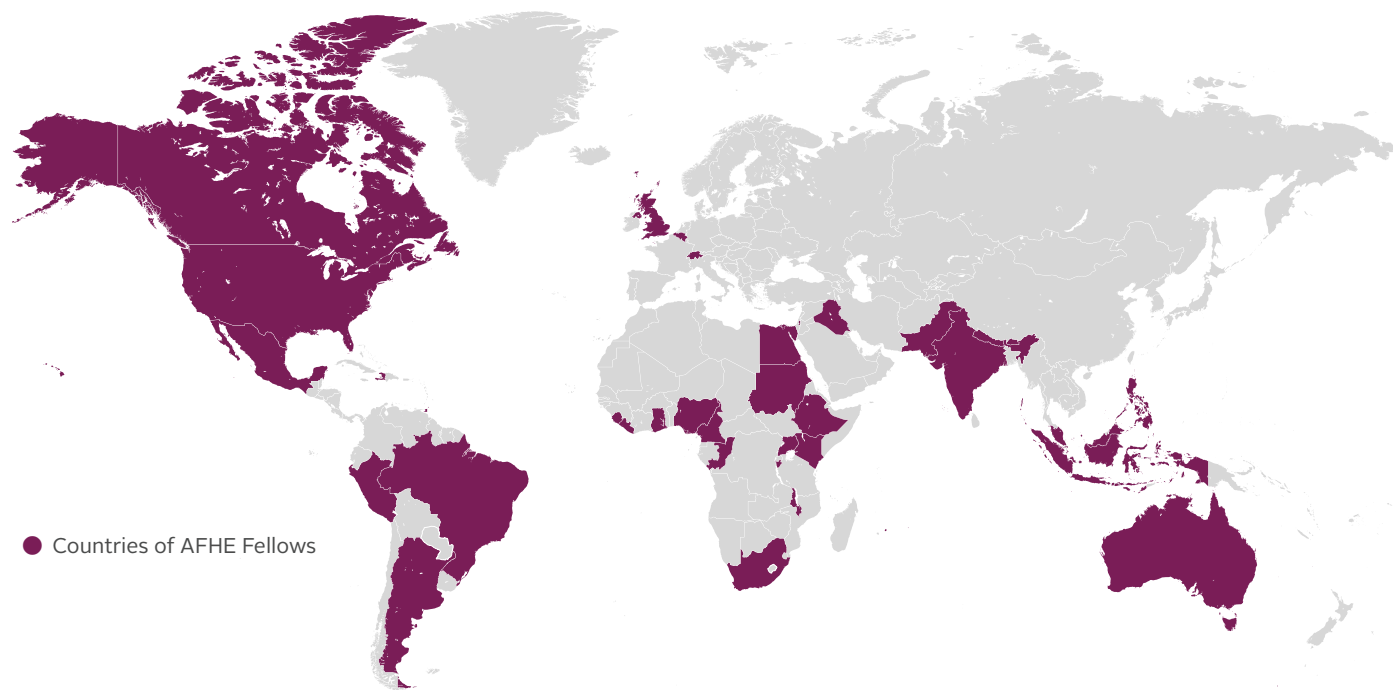
In a recent survey, **96% of Senior Fellows** stated that the leadership curriculum has enabled them to coach and/or support other leaders.

74% of Senior Fellows have shared leadership content with students, colleagues, mentees, leaders, policymakers and others.

Atlantic Fellows
FOR

**HEALTH
EQUITY**

Our Fellows



● Countries of AFHE Fellows

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Argentina	Canada	Iraq	Nepal	South Africa
Australia	Egypt	Kenya	Nigeria	Sudan
Belgium	Ethiopia	Liberia	Pakistan	Switzerland
Bhutan	Ghana	Malawi	Palestine	Trinidad and Tobago
Brazil	Haiti	Malaysia	Peru	Uganda
Burundi	India	Mauritius	Philippines	United Kingdom
Cameroon	Indonesia	Mexico	Sierra Leone	United States

We recruit early to mid-career professionals working everywhere in the world in any aspect of health. A broad global perspective and diversity of professional backgrounds enables more robust learning among fellows and collaborations across disciplines.

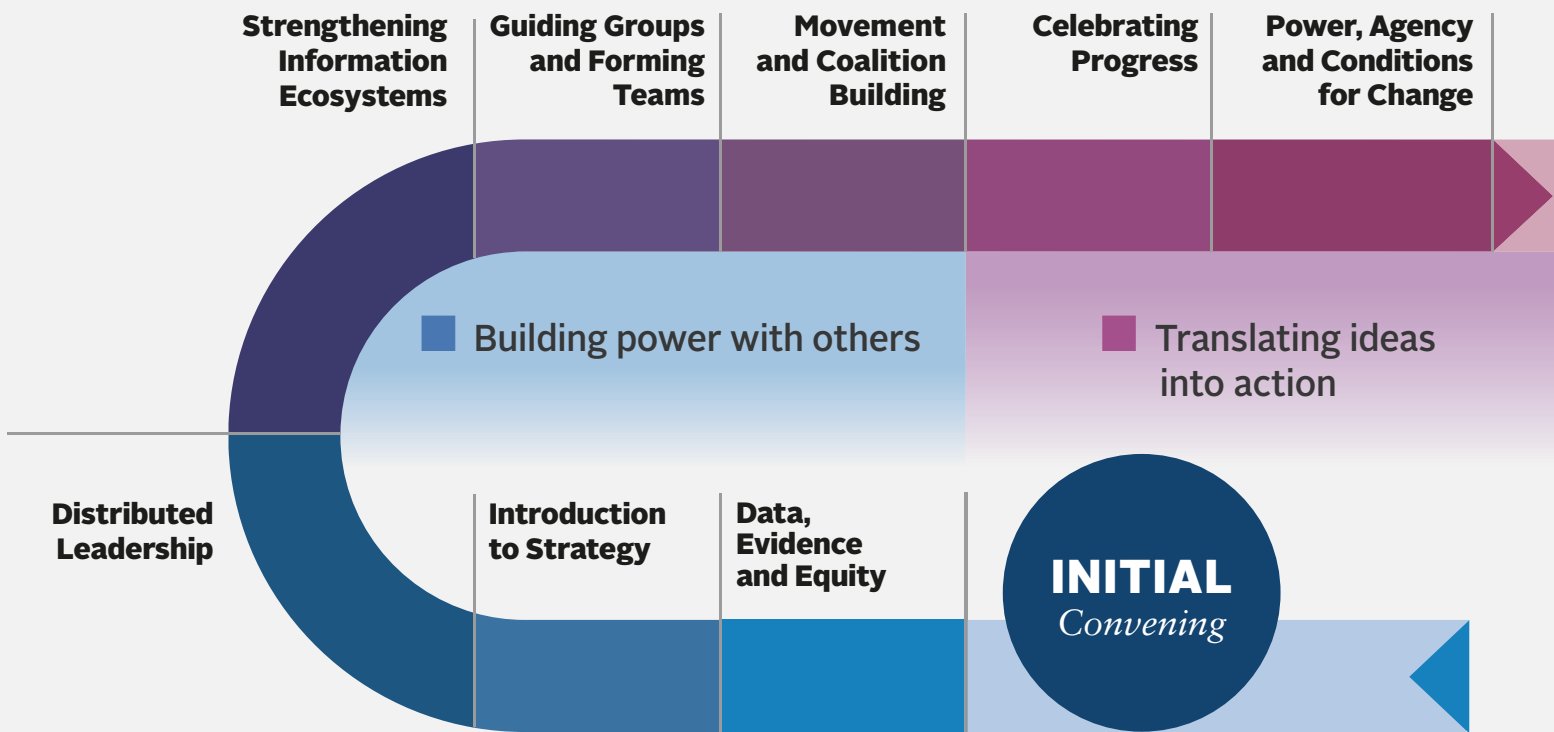
INTERDISCIPLINARY

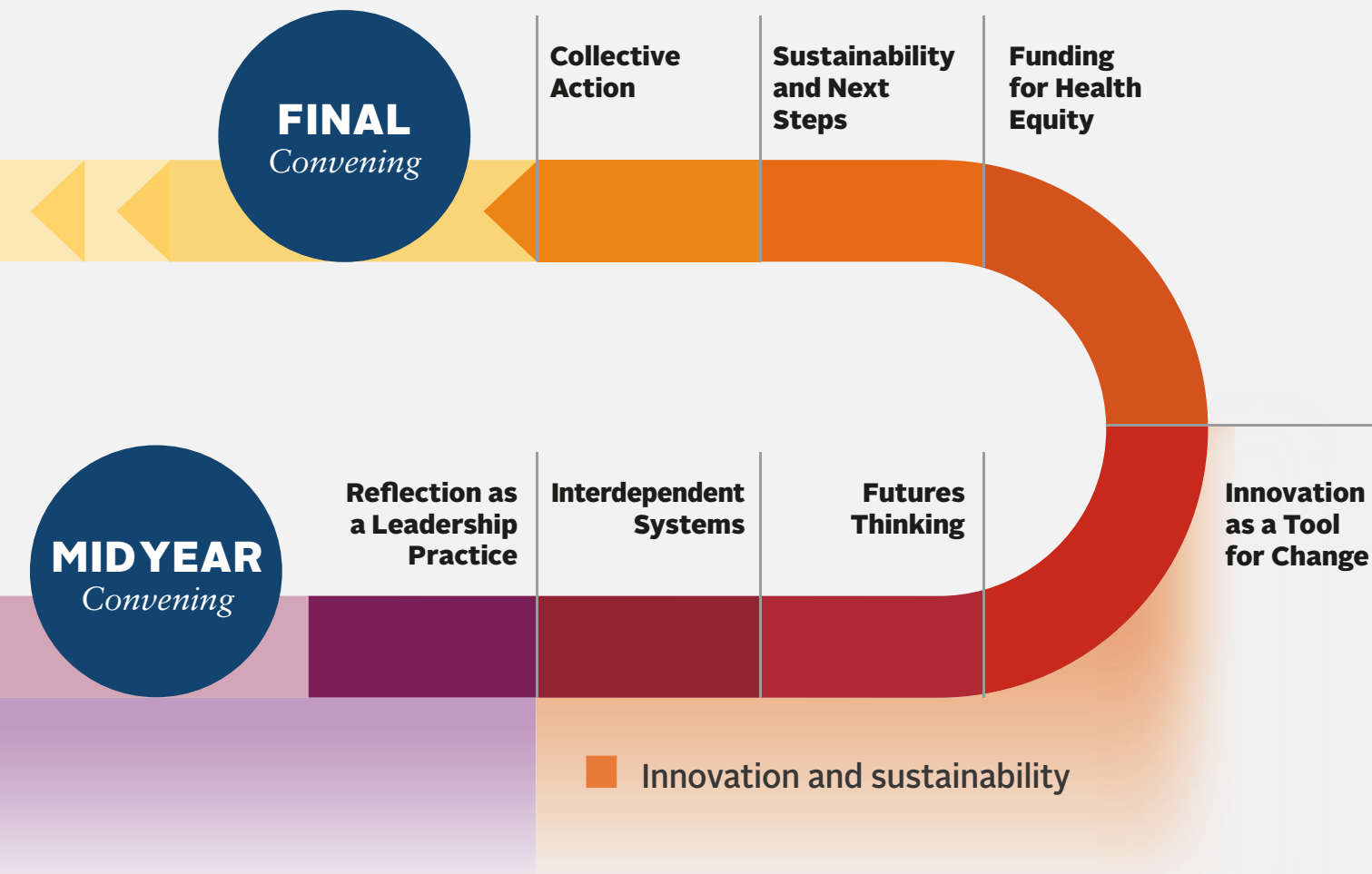
Advocacy & Policy	Journalism
Art & Design	Law
Communications	LGBTQIA+
Data & Analytics	Medicine
Economics	Mental Health
Education	Non-Profit & Fundraising
Environment	Racial Equity
Government	Rural Health
Indigenous Health	Social Work

THE FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY

Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity develops global leaders who understand the foundations of health inequity and have the knowledge, skills and courage to build more equitable organizations and communities. The fellowship journey provides intensive learning and growth experiences, connecting fellows in a network as they move forward in their careers.

Lifelong Fellowship





Learning Objectives

Build Leaders

- Identify, connect with and live personal values
- Build power with others
- Lead constructively through challenges and across differences

Create Solutions

- Implement strategies to eliminate health disparities
- Identify and mobilize resources for learning and innovation
- Collaborate with others to advance equity

Grow Communities

- Contribute to a fellowship community
- Engage in peer learning and develop global connections
- Build the community's capacity for sustained impact

2025 FELLOWSHIP YEAR

CONVENINGS

2025 Initial Convening

We welcomed the 2025 Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity cohort to Washington, D.C., for their Initial Convening in January. Across visits to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, THEARC, and the Pan American Health Organization, fellows explored how history, community-based systems, and global institutions shape health and wellbeing. Senior Fellows were a strong presence throughout the week, fostering connection, sharing perspectives, and supporting meaningful conversations about leadership, projects and future pathways.

"The first week of the Initial Convening provided a conducive environment for meaningful connections, fostering rich discussions and collaboration among fellows. It served as the perfect launchpad for the year ahead, setting a strong foundation for growth, engagement, and collective impact."

— From 2025 Initial Convening Survey



Photo: Abby Greenawalt

2025 Mid-Year Convening

The 2025 cohort convened mid-year at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda in June, immersing themselves in site-based learning that connected global health theory to practice. Through visits and conversations with local institutions and leaders, fellows examined how systems, history and community-driven approaches shape health outcomes on the ground. The convening also created meaningful space for peer exchange and reflection, reinforcing a shared commitment to applying these insights within their own contexts and collaborative work moving forward.

"The main takeaway I gained from this convening is a deeper understanding of health equity. I learned about what is possible .. how innovative approaches and collaborative efforts can drive meaningful change in health equity and improve services for underserved populations." — From 2025 Fellow



Photo: Serrah Galos

2025 Final Convening

The 2025 cohort gathered in Iloilo, Philippines, for their Final Convening and graduation in November. It was a week shaped in close partnership with AFHE Senior Fellows from the Philippines, offering a meaningful space to reflect, connect and honor all they have learned and contributed throughout the year.

This convening was a "life-changing immersive learning that built my stamina and stores of courage to face a very tough time back home, and lifetime bonds with people I love that are also aligned in shared purpose."

— From 2025 Fellow



Photo: Louis Reyes

Senior Fellows

ETHIOPIA CONVENING

We held a Senior Fellow Convening in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2025. From emceeding the event and delivering keynote reflections to moderating panels and guiding conversations, Senior Fellows were central to the convening's design and energy.

The program featured fellow-led discussions on maternal and child health, artificial intelligence and digital health, and innovative financing and partnership models through the Impact Exchange. These sessions highlighted how Senior Fellows are translating research, policy and practice into scalable solutions across diverse contexts. Community site visits further deepened this learning, offering fellows the opportunity to engage directly with organizations advancing public health, disability inclusion, youth empowerment, and community-centered care in Ethiopia.

Connection and culture were equally central to the convening experience. AFHE Global Night stood out as a powerful celebration of the fellowship's global identity, bringing together music, storytelling, and traditional dress to honor the cultures and perspectives that shape the community.



“The sessions, discussions, and exchanges have provided new perspectives on how we can collectively tackle the health inequities that persist in different regions. The sense of shared purpose and collaboration was truly inspiring.”

Ridwan Karim Dini Osman (2023 cohort)



Photos: Hareg Multimedia



SENIOR FELLOW ADVISORY BOARD

The Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity Senior Fellow Advisory Board (SFAB) comprises four graduated fellows who work closely with the AFHE Senior Fellow Engagement Team to build a vibrant and connected community of Senior Fellows.

The 2025 Senior Fellow Advisory Board (from top left to bottom right) were Muhammad Sadiq Ahmad (2021, Nigeria) Sara Lavinia Brair (2021, Sudan), Marx Itabelo Lwabanya (2021, Burundi) Kuhika Seth (2023, India).

SECTION

2



What this community does for me when we convene is energize me, remind me that I am not alone, that there are many like me who are trying to make this world better for everyone. It starts slow with changing perspective, when we are transported to a new place where we are reminded of how big the world is and how diverse it is in its views.”

QUSAI HAMMOURI '21



Health Equity in Action

COLLABORATIONS

We offer Collaboration Funds to provide funding for projects that involve collaborations between Senior Fellows from the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity program. The funds are meant to advance AFHE's commitment to promoting innovative ideas, encouraging collective action and sharing the important work our fellows are doing with others.

Co-Creating a Trauma-Informed Mental Health Tool With Children

AFHE Senior Fellows [Ginger Ramirez](#) (2017 cohort), [Ana Cecilia Ortega](#) (2021 cohort) and [Zulema García Ulloa](#) (2023 cohort) and co-writer and designer Denden Parreno collaborated across Mexico and the Philippines to develop a trauma-informed children's workbook designed for use in low-resource primary care and community settings. The project emerged from shared learning at the 2022 AFHE Convening on Displacement and Health in Thessaloniki, Greece, where fellows reflected on the disproportionate mental health burdens faced by children living in contexts shaped by poverty, violence, illness and limited access to psychosocial care.

Children in marginalized communities are particularly vulnerable to adverse childhood experiences, yet child-focused mental health resources are often scarce or nonexistent at the primary care level. In response, Ginger, Ana and Zule set out to create a practical, culturally adaptable tool that could be used by health workers and community practitioners to support emotional awareness, resilience, and coping skills among children ages 7–9.

Grounded in trauma-informed and strengths-based principles, the workbook centers animal characters to create a sense of safety, universality and inclusion across cultures.

The development process was intentionally participatory. The fellows conducted consultations with children in diverse settings including rural villages in Chiapas, Mexico, pediatric palliative care programs in Guadalajara, Mexico and deaf communities in Manila, Philippines. These sessions informed the workbook's narrative, visuals, and activities, ensuring that children's perspectives shaped how difficult experiences, fear, comfort, and resilience were represented. Mental health professionals, educators, and community partners also provided feedback to refine the content, language, and flow of the workbook.

Illustrated and piloted with children and practitioners, the workbook underwent multiple revisions to **improve accessibility and usability, including simplifying language, expanding opportunities for drawing and creative expression, and adding guidance for adult facilitators when sensitive topics arise.** The final product is available in English and Spanish in both print and digital formats, with plans for broader dissemination through partner networks.



The illustrated workbook was piloted with children and practitioners to test accessibility and usability.

Photos: Courtesy of Ginger Ramirez

Strengthening Legal Protections for Frontline Maternal Health Workers in Uganda

Mary Ajwang and **Brigit Carter**, both from the 2017 cohort, organized a pioneering legal empowerment training for 124 health workers at Kawempe National Referral Hospital in April 2025. The need is urgent: Uganda’s maternal mortality rate remains high at 189 deaths per 100,000 live births (2022), with Kawempe alone recording 992 maternal deaths from 2016–2021 — 84% of which were preventable and mainly due to systemic issues like delayed referrals and limited resources.

Despite these systemic challenges, health workers are often wrongly blamed and face arrest. The training, delivered in partnership with Barefoot Law and the Uganda Law Society, focused on practical legal protections under the Ugandan Constitution, the importance of thorough documentation, and how to access emergency legal aid.

Participants highlighted the need for ongoing legal education and clearer guidelines to help them navigate complex risks and continue providing quality care. This initiative marked a critical step in equipping Uganda’s health workers with the knowledge and support they need to protect themselves and advocate for safer, fairer maternal health care.



Photo: Hareg Multimedia

The need is urgent: Uganda’s maternal mortality rate remains high at 189 deaths per 100,000 live births (2022), with Kawempe alone recording 992 maternal deaths from 2016–2021 — 84% of which were preventable.

Advancing Youth-Led SRHR Through Global Collaboration

In November 2025, **Naglaa Fathy** and **Kate Daugherty** from the 2021 cohort presented their collaborative work at the International Conference for Family Planning in Bogotá, Colombia. Their presentation, “Youth Equipped with the Knowledge and Skills Necessary to Make Healthy Life Choices: OSRA Program as Proof of Positive Community Change Towards Better SRH and Voluntary FP Choices,” showcased the outcomes of an innovative community-based project that empowers youth and families with the knowledge and skills to make informed sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) decisions. Naglaa led the project in Egypt, and throughout the program, Kate visited Egypt and Naglaa’s team three times.

They also participated in the pre-conference Youth Summit, “Voices, Evidence, Action: An Intergenerational Movement for All,” which was a crucial space to network and share their experience working with youth around SRHR.



“For both of us, the youth conference offered the most meaningful opportunity to discuss the challenges programs all over the globe are facing in the wake of lost funding from USAID and other grants. It was invigorating to hear the creative ways other programs have been able to continue their work by shifting models and finding innovative funding opportunities.”

Senior Fellow Health Equity in Action

We've included just a few examples of the incredible work our fellows do in a given year. We invite you to explore more examples on our website: <https://healthequity.atlanticfellows.org/impact>



Photo: Courtesy of Gilberto Lopez

Led by **Gilberto Lopez** (2020 cohort) and colleagues in Arizona, United States, the **Agua es Vida: Interactive Exhibit**, launched in 2025, uses interactive activities, murals, VR, and bilingual materials to **make water science inclusive and culturally relevant**. Visitors explore water systems to understand their impact and gain tools to advocate for their communities. This project encourages South Phoenix Latino communities to **engage with their water systems and advocate for their communities' perspectives and needs**.

Elliot Koranteng Tannor (2019 cohort) and his team made history in Ghana with the **first-ever kidney transplant in Kumasi**. This is a critical step in addressing the health inequities faced by patients with **end-stage kidney disease**. With over 15,400 Ghanaians suffering from kidney failure and limited access to transplants, Elliot highlights the urgent need for a national renal transplant program, increased specialist training, and policies for organ donation.



Photo: Hareg Multimedia

Gateway Holistic Care Group, led by **Nonsi Mathe** (2023 cohort) earned a three-year Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities accreditation, a major milestone affirming that **every aspect of care meets international quality standards**. Gateway Holistic Care Group delivers a range of person-centered programs, including respite, residential, supported living, community access, pathways to independence, and behavioural support, **designed to meet the needs of Autistic and neurodiverse children, youth, and adults across Alberta**.



Photo: Courtesy of Nonsi Mathe



Photo: Gwaga Communications

Mario Jimenez (2024 cohort) supported a major public health milestone with the **launch of the malaria vaccine in Burundi** in March 2025. The vaccine was rolled out to children aged 6–11 months in 25 high-burden districts and will complement existing malaria prevention efforts. Evidence from earlier introductions in other African countries shows **the vaccine can significantly reduce severe malaria and child deaths**, an impact expected to be felt quickly in Burundi, where malaria remains a leading cause of illness and mortality.

Current Fellow Health Equity in Action

Because the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity fellowship is non-residential, fellows remain rooted in their communities and organizations, putting new ideas into practice in real time. Throughout the year, they advance a health equity project while strengthening their leadership and deepening the impact of the work they're already doing. Below are some examples of work from our 2025 cohort.



Photo: Courtesy of Joanne Chiwaula

In 2025, **Joanne Chiwaula**'s organization Joyful Motherhood provided targeted, family-based care to 406 high-risk infants in Malawi, infants who, without specialized support, face markedly increased risks of illness and death due to maternal loss or serious maternal illness. With consistent nurse visits, nutrition support, and caregiver education, only two infant deaths occurred among those enrolled. Joyful Motherhood also supported 59 postpartum women recovering from severe birth complications, with marked improvements in mobility, pain management, self-care, daily functioning, and depression by program discharge. As the only NGO in Malawi offering this model of care, Joyful Motherhood continues to expand across districts, reaching families often overlooked by standard health systems while delivering highly cost-effective, life-saving support.

Implemented through the Initiative of Trans With a Mission–Uganda, the Trans-Harmony Farm, led by **Gafidyn Rae Wesonga** highlights a community-led, climate-resilient agriculture model for transgender and queer farmers in rural Eastern Uganda, demonstrating how lived experience can strengthen social cohesion and economic independence. The framework emphasizes that transformation starts within communities, with Gafidyn's work bringing visibility and language to knowledge already being cultivated by queer, trans and gender-diverse women.



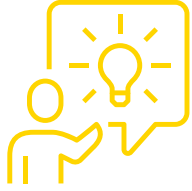
Photo: Courtesy of Gafidyn Rae Wesonga



Nandita Thatte and her team led the development of the first-ever World Health Organization guideline for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infertility. Grounded in evidence and lived experience, the guideline frames infertility as a critical public health and equity issue, calling for affordable, respectful and science-based care to be integrated into national health systems. By addressing prevention, clinical pathways, psychosocial support and financial barriers, this landmark work advances the right of individuals and families everywhere to decide how to build healthy families.

Photo: Louis Reyes

2025 AFHE BY THE NUMBERS



240

**MEDIA
MENTIONS OR
ENGAGEMENTS**



131




**PRESENTATIONS /
WEBINARS**
Given by AFHE Fellows



110

PUBLICATIONS

Produced by
AFHE Fellows

-  **47** Opinion pieces
-  **52** Articles
-  **11** Publications
(Report/Toolkits
& Book Chapters
and Other
Creative Works)



Oscar Ramirez (2021 cohort), alongside other Global Atlantic Fellows, conducted a field study across three diverse regions of Peru to understand the challenges communities face in accessing basic health care. This work, supported by an Atlantic Institute grant, revealed that trust, cultural sensitivity and logistical barriers are major obstacles, with health facilities often understaffed and under-resourced.

Their findings emphasize that improving empathy, cultural understanding and community engagement is as crucial as investing in infrastructure. Solutions must reflect local realities, integrate Indigenous languages and customs, support overworked health staff, and center the voices of the communities themselves.

Atlantic Fellows
FOR

**HEALTH
EQUITY**



SECTION
3



I am forever grateful for this opportunity. I have met great people, gained exposure, experience, new knowledge, and I am more confident in my work now cause I have been taught how to do it with grace.”

MADALITSO JUWAYEYI '25



AFHE Charter Committee

The Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity Charter Committee is composed of individuals chosen for their commitment to health equity, education, social change, leadership, and health disparity reduction. Their role is to oversee the program as it continues to develop, providing advice and counsel on the construction, curriculum, management and finances of the program and the community of practice that it is building around the globe.



Guenevere Burke
ex officio
Atlantic Fellows
for Health Equity



Selam Bedada
Atlantic Fellows
for Health Equity



Christine K. Cassel
UCSF School
of Medicine



Lisa Cooper
Johns Hopkins University
Schools of Medicine,
Nursing, and Public Health



Kelly Gebo
ex officio
GWU Milken Institute
School of Public Health



Yolanda Ogbolu
University of Maryland
School of Nursing



Toyese Oyeyemi
ex officio
Social Mission Alliance



Oscar Ramírez
Socios en Salud



Neha Raykar
IDinsight

Faculty & Staff

Our faculty and staff have an expansive range of expertise in health equity, leadership, innovative health policy, leading social mission fellowship programming and more.



Guenevere Burke
*Executive
Director*



Selam Bedada
*Program
Director*



Janice Blanchard
*Senior Fellow
Faculty*



Leigh Anne Butler
*Managing
Director*



Abel Cano
*Leadership
Learning Faculty*



Oliva Jefferson-Shiau
*Current Fellow
Lead*



Kai Kennedy
*Leadership
Learning Faculty*



Beth Mechum
*Communications
Lead*



Lauren Muñoz
*Health Equity
Scholar*



Khadidiatou Ndiaye
*Health Equity
Learning Faculty*



Trey Trkula
*Program
Coordinator*



Moira Secrest
*Manager,
Sponsored Projects*



Sharon White
*Senior Financial
Analyst*



Shadelle Yancey
*Operations and
Logistics Coordinator*



Ahmad Zia Ziai
*Finance
Assistant*

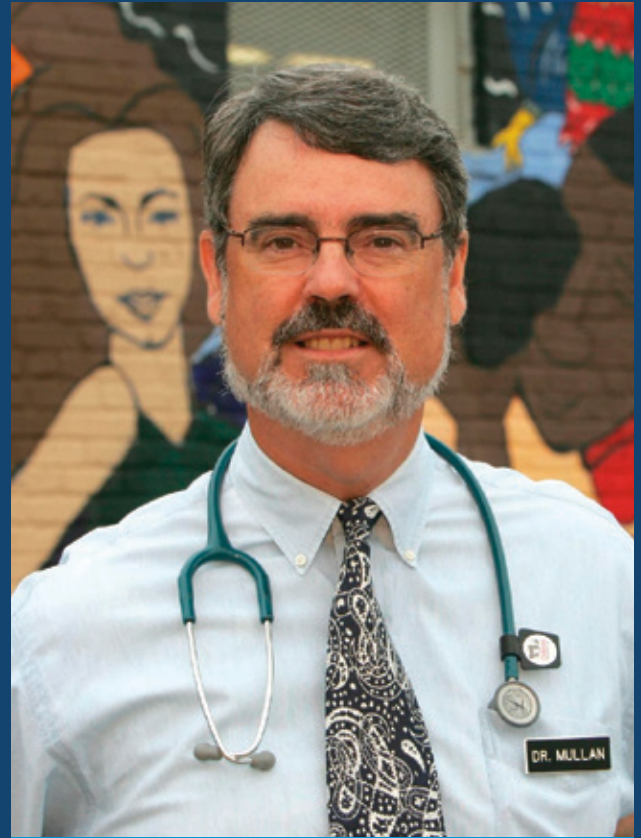
Fitz's Legacy

The late Dr. Fitzhugh (Fitz) Mullan, whose career was marked by a tireless dedication to service and the pursuit of human rights, left behind a lasting legacy in the form of the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity. Formerly known as Leaders for Health Equity (LHE), this initiative stood as one of the final, significant contributions of Fitz, who passed away in November 2019 at the age of 77.

Fitz's impactful career unfolded as a civil rights doctor in the 1960s in Durant, Mississippi. His commitment to health equity continued through roles with the National Health Service Corps and leadership of that program within the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce.

A renowned author, mentor, researcher, and speaker, Fitz advocated for making health "not just better, but fairer." Throughout his career, he established fellowship programs, drawing upon his extensive experiences. He brought his wealth of knowledge to the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity program, guiding its development from the initial planning stages.

Fitz Mullan's foresight became evident as he recognized the limitations of time and ensured that the AFHE team and our past, current and future fellows were well-equipped to carry forward his fight for health equity.



DR. FITZHUGH MULLAN

Our Partners

ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES

In 2015, The Atlantic Philanthropies established the Atlantic Fellows as the culmination of the foundation's extensive efforts in the geographical regions and issue areas it had historically prioritized. This initiative marked the fruition of decades spent investing in people and their visions, aiming to bring about positive change on a global scale.

The commitment to this cause was significant, with Atlantic Philanthropies allocating over \$660 million — its most substantial investment to date. Collaborating with partner organizations and governments, this financial support was intended to empower a global network of thousands of Atlantic Fellows for the next two decades and beyond.

Throughout its 35-year history, Atlantic Philanthropies dedicated over \$8 billion in grants, focusing primarily on advancing opportunity, health equity, and human dignity



\$660 MILLION

invested by Atlantic Philanthropies in to support the global network of Atlantic Fellows

across eight regions worldwide. Founded in 1982, the philanthropy embodied the ethos of its benefactor, Chuck Feeney, who quietly dedicated his wealth to the service of humanity. Adhering to his "Giving While Living" philosophy, Atlantic strategically invested in systemic change to catalyze lasting improvements in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. This transformative approach concluded its operations in 2020, continuing to have a lasting impact on the pursuit of a better world.

AFHE FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY

2026 Fellows

Azara Agidani, MD, MSc
Senior Technical Advisor
Nigeria

Giancarlo Biaggi, MD
Psychiatrist, Psychotherapist
and Non-profit Founder
Peru

Muhammad Fathun, MD, MSc
Technical Consultant and
Youth Development Advocate
Indonesia

Sophie Genigeorgis, MPH
Epidemiologist and
Program Manager
United States

Jose Luis González, MPH, MS
Health Economist
and Senior Program Officer
United States

Sadaf Ishaque, FCPS, FACS
Breast Surgical Oncologist
and Assistant Professor of Surgery
Pakistan

Leah Lewis-Garber, MSN, RN
Nurse and Health Equity
Program Leader
United States

Shaun Liverpool, PhD
Psychologist, Lecturer
and Researcher
United Kingdom

Lucas McKinnon, MPH
Managing Director
and Food Systems Leader
United States

Giselle Ramose, BSW, CM, ACC
Social Work Officer
Trinidad & Tobago

Robert Rock, MD, HS
Family Physician,
Health Services Researcher
United States

Sara Sukudom, MD, MPH
Medical Doctor and Researcher
Australia

Wubshet Jote Tolossa, MD
Adult Nephrologist, Internist
Ethiopia

Tshering Yangdon, MSc
Project Technical Officer
Bhutan

Remembering Felicia Mburu

We honor the life and legacy of Felicia Mburu, our 2023 Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity. Felicia passed away on September 8, 2025, after a brief illness, leaving a lasting impact on her community, colleagues, and the field of human rights and disability advocacy.

She was remembered by her cohort, friends, and colleagues as a person of action — courageous, brave, caring, loving, and deeply committed to making a difference. Her dedication inspires us to continue the work she championed, both within AFHE and in our broader communities.

She worked across Kenya, Latvia, Hungary, the United States, and other parts of Africa on intersectional issues of gender and disability rights.

Among her most significant achievements are uniting organizations of persons with disabilities across East and Southern Africa, driving the integration of disability inclusion within public institutions, and advocating persistently for policies that advance inclusivity.



2025 Fellows

Ali Alshalah, MSc

National Program Manager
Iraq

Lauren Anita

Arrington, CNM, DNP, FACNM
Nurse Midwife & Assistant Professor
United States

Joanne Chiwaula, MSc, CNM

Maternal and Child Health
Nonprofit Founder/Director
Malawi

Zelalem Dessalegn Demeke, MScOT

Occupational Therapist and
Youth Disabilities Nonprofit Founder
Ethiopia

Neo Hutiri, MEng, MPhil

Engineer and Social Impact
Founder & Managing Director
South Africa

Madalitso Juwayeyi

Sexual and Reproductive Health and
Rights Organization Executive Director
Malawi

Dom Kelly, MS

Disability Advocate & Nonprofit
Founder, President and CEO
United States

Shannon Ladner-Beasley, MPH

Health Equity Manager
United States

Ruwa Mahdi, MA, MSc

Equitable Research Ecosystems Manager
United Kingdom

Alina Potts, MPH

Gender-based Violence Research Scientist
United States

Anoop Raman, MD, MBA

Chief Medical Officer – Complex Care
United States

Aastha Sethi, MA

Senior Policy Officer,
Climate Change and Environment
India

Nandita Thatte, DrPh, MHS

Technical Officer,
Sexual and Reproductive Health
Switzerland

Yih Seong Wong, MSc

Hematologist-Oncologist
Malaysia

Gafidyn Rae Wesonga, MB. ChB

Medical Doctor, Team Leader
and Executive Director of
Trans-feminist Non-profit

2024 Fellows

Zaki Abate, MD

Physician & Technical Advisor
Ethiopia

Samuel Akuffo, B.Pharm, MBA

Pharmacist & Managing Director
Ghana

Odur Anthony

Lawyer & Team Leader
Uganda

Gladys Arias, MPA

Health Policy Analyst
United States

Emily Bartlett, MD

Emergency Medicine Physician
United States

Nyabony Gat

Program Director
United States

Hina Ghole, MBBS, MCPS, MRCGP INT

Global Chief Medical Officer
Pakistan

Mario Jimenez, MSc

Economist & Program Manager
Switzerland

Salima Khowaja, BSN

Nursing Lecturer Practitioner
Pakistan

Jan Aura Laurelle Llevado, MD

Division Chief
Philippines

Jasmine Maringmei, MPhil

Policy Analyst
India

Aoife Molloy, MSc, PhD

Clinical Lead for Net Zero
United Kingdom

Jose A. Plascencia, MD

Policy Data &
Epidemiological Analyst
United States

Rachel Watkins, MBA, BSN, RN

Nursing Director
United States

Azua Ekokobe Wilfred, MD

Medical Director
Cameroon

2023 Fellows

Gloria Annette Aguirre

Artist & Community Advocate
United States

Rana Al-Qawsmi, MPH

Nutritionist and Public Health Specialist
Palestine

Sagal Ali

Reimagining Public Health & Policy
United States

Geminn Louis Apostol, MD, MBA, MSc

Environmental Health Specialist
Philippines

Christy Adeola Braham, PhD, MPH

Researcher & Activist
Belgium

Sarah Chambers, LCSW

Clinical Social Worker
United States

Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman

Broadcast Journalist
and News Anchor
Ghana

Belaynew Adugna Endeshaw

Lecturer in Physiotherapy
Ethiopia

Gulnar Feerasta, MMSA, MNO

Director of Programs/
Non-profit Practitioner
United States

Nicholas Grant, PhD, ABPP

Clinical Psychologist
United States

Shatyam Issur, LL.M

Project Manager & PT Lecturer in Law
Mauritius

Maymunah Yusuf Kadiri, MBBS

Psychiatrist
Nigeria

Nonsikelelo Mathe, PhD

Scientific Director, Health Equity
& Systems Transformation &
Founder of Respite Care Agency
Canada

Felicia Mburu, ML

Disability Rights Activist
Kenya

Daniel Mistak, JD

Director of Healthcare Initiatives
for Justice-Involved Populations
United States

Kuhika Seth

Social Scientist
India

AFHE FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY

Anthonika Titus, MD

Medical Director
Haiti

Laila Zulema García Ulloa

Pediatrician
Mexico

Melikte Paulos Weldetensaye, MD

Medical Doctor, Social Entrepreneur,
and Health Media Specialist
Ethiopia

2021 Fellows

Muhammad Saddiq Ahmad

Nurse & Non-profit Leader
Nigeria

Zahraa Al-sarraf, RPh

Stakeholders' Engagement Officer
& Pharmacist
Iraq

Sara Lavinia Brair, MD FFPH

Public Health Physician
Sudan

Kate Daugherty, MA

Trauma Informed Education
United States

Pedro Delgado, MSc

Healthcare Executive
United Kingdom

Pratiksha Dhungana, BDS, MPH

Community Health Program Lead
Nepal

Regina Duperval, MD

Pediatric Endocrinologist
Canada

Qusai Hammouri, MD

Pediatric Spine Surgeon
United States

Scott Howell, DMD, MPH

Public Health Dental Director
United States

Brenda Hughes, MPH

Community Engagement Manager
United States

Shannon Jordan, MA

Public Health & Social Impact Entrepreneur
United States

Paige Knowlson, MOT

Occupational Therapist
United States

Naglaa Fathy Lithy, MD

Senior Health Specialist and
Grants and Proposal Writing Unit Lead
Egypt

Marx Itabelo Lwabanya, MD, EMHL

Hospital Medical Director
Burundi

Ana Ortega, MA

Community Psychologist
Mexico

Oscar Ramirez

Industrial Engineer
Peru

Haydeé "Nancy" Rumaldo, MA

Strategic Coordination Officer/
Program Leader
Peru

Akshita Siddula, MPH

Community Organizer
United States

Claire Thomas

Economic Development
Coordinator & Political Activist
United States

2020 Fellows

Bilal Asim, MBA, MPH

Healthcare Executive
Pakistan

Monique Brown, MSRED

Program Manager
United States

Shubham Choudhary

Non-profit Leader
India

Abraham L.B. Freeman

Environmental Advocate
Liberia

Hyeladzira Garnvwa, MSc

Health Economist and Non-profit Leader
Nigeria

Kevin Heckman, MBA

Director of Product Development
United States

Liam Hein, PhD, MSN, DAAN, RN

Associate Professor of Nursing
United States

Gabrielle Jackson, MSW

Clinical Social Worker
United States

Gilberto Lopez, ScD, MA, MPH

Assistant Professor & Social Scientist
United States

Medha Makhlof, JD

Professor of Law
United States

Maureen Milanga, LLB

Director International Policy
and Advocacy
Kenya

Bertrand Moses, MSc

Child Protection Officer
and Psychotherapist
Trinidad and Tobago

Syed Mustafa H. Nadir, MS

Chief Executive Officer
& Communications Strategist
United States

Rose Mary Nakame, MPH

Non-profit Leader & Nurse
Uganda

Mildred Adhiambo Omino, MPA, MA

Disability Justice Advocate
& Administrator
Kenya

Nkemakolem Osian, MPH

Public Health Analyst
United States

Elena Rivera, MPH

Public Health Advocate
United States

Peter Gan Kim Soon, DrPH,

MBBS, MA, MPH, MSc
Public Health Physician
Malaysia

Megan Srinivas, MD, MPH

Infectious Disease Physician & State Legislator
United States

Lindsley Jeremiah Villarante, RN, MPH,

FISQua
Chief Health Program Officer
Philippines

Bram Wispelwey, MD, MPH, MS

Public Health Physician
United States

2019 Fellows

Adekemi Adeniyani, BDS

Dentist & Non-profit Leader
Nigeria

Alaq Al-Muwali, MBChB, MS

Doctor
United Kingdom

Adrian Billings, MD, PhD, FAFAP

Associate Dean of Rural Health
United States

Esperanza Cantú, MPH

Director of Health Initiatives
United States

Esnatt Gondwe-Matekesa, MSc-LLM
Development Practitioner
Malawi

Razel Nikka Hao, MD, MBA, MSc
Health Systems Leader
Philippines

Artanesha Jackson, MA
Clinical Social Worker
United States

Danielle Woodhouse Johnson
*Operations Manager
& Non-profit Leader*
United States

Anne Laux, MS
Field Training Compliance Officer
United States

Jessica Milberg-Haydu, MPH
*Senior Director, Strategy
and Operations*
United States

Shubha Nagesh, MBBS, MHA, MPH
*Doctor & Public
Health Specialist*
India

Ifeanyi Nsofor, MBBS, MCommH
*Physician &
Health Policy Advocate*
United States

Monalisa Padhee, PhD
*Program Head of Education
and Wellness Initiatives*
India

**Brandi Payton, DHA, MSHCA,
BSN, RN, NEA-BC**
Clinic Administrator
United States

Lindsey Pollaczek, MPH
Chief Program Officer
United States

Hope Rhodes-Pretlow, MD, MPH
Community Pediatrician
United States

Eliza Squibb
Artist & Educator
United States

Elliot Koranteng Tannor, MD
*Associate Professor, Consultant
Nephrologist & Non-profit Leader*
Ghana

2018 Fellows

Amanda Brosnan, MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Professor
United States

Lesford Duncan, MPH
Outdoor Recreation Leader
United States

Angela Echiverri, MD, MPH
Family & Community Medicine Physician
United States

Sarah Hooper, JD
Lawyer & Lecturer
United States

James Huang, MD, FAAFP
Family Physician
United States

Kai Kennedy, PT, DPT
*Physical Therapist, Educator,
and Researcher*
United States

Jonatan Konfino, MD, PhD
Doctor and Health Official
Argentina

Anjali Singh Kulkarni, MPH, MSW
*Public Health Specialist
& Adjunct Associate Professor*
India

Deborah Liao, MD
Municipal Health Officer
Philippines

Jordi Luke, MA
Public Servant
United States

Emily MacDonald, RN, BSN
Senior Director of Operations
United States

Christina Rosenthal, DDS, MPH
Dentist & Non-profit Leader
United States

Zeina Saliba, MD
*Psychiatrist and Family Medicine
Physician & Assistant Professor*
United States

Stephen Sevalie, MBChB
Commanding Officer & Psychiatrist
Sierra Leone

Tyler Spencer, MSc, PhD
Director of Partnerships and Growth
Mexico

2017 Fellows

Mary Ajwang, MSPH
Public Health Specialist
Uganda

Sarah Battistich, MD, MSc
Emergency Medicine Physician & Medical Director
United States

Brigit Carter, PhD, MSN, RN, CCRN
Chief Access and Engagement Officer
United States

Kenneth T. Jones, PhD, MS
*Deputy Executive Director
& Data Lead*
United States

Thomas Merrill, MA, RN
Registered Nurse & PhD Student
United States

Scott Nass, MD, MPA, FAAFP, AAHIVS
Family Physician
United States

Toyese Oyeyemi, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, MBA
Public Health Practitioner & Researcher
United States

Maria Portela, MD, MPH
Medical Director
United States

**Caroline Mae "Ginger"
Ramirez, MD, MBA, MMSc-GHD**
Physician & Mental Health Advocate
Philippines

Neha Raykar, PhD, MA
Economist
India

Zulayka Santiago, MPA
Creative Director
United States

Sara Selig, MD, MPH
Physician
United States

Joedrecka Brown Speights, MD
Professor
United States

Carla A. Arena Ventura, PhD, MBA, MS
Professor
Brazil

Yvonne Yiu, MPP
Health Systems Specialist
United States



For a full fellowship directory,
please visit

healthequity.atlanticfellows.org/our-fellows

Seven Programs. One Common Purpose.

Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity is one of seven global, interconnected Atlantic Fellows programs. Fellows are typically early- to mid-career professionals from a range of backgrounds, disciplines and life experiences who share a passion, determination and vision to realize a more just world.

THE ATLANTIC INSTITUTE

The Atlantic Institute's mission is to amplify the impact of Atlantic Fellows by providing opportunities to connect, learn and collaborate for social change. The institute does this by:

- Supporting lifelong community among Atlantic Fellows, with access to resources and opportunities to connect, learn and work together.
- Promoting collaboration and shared approaches across Atlantic Fellows programs, with virtual and face-to-face platforms for sharing knowledge.
- Raising global awareness of the work of the Fellows, and of the programs.
- Extending community by connecting Atlantic Fellows and programs to a broader global network of equity-focused leadership initiatives.

While each of the seven Atlantic Fellows programs is distinct and grounded in its local context, they share a common purpose of advancing fairer, healthier, more inclusive societies.



Atlantic Fellows for
Equity in Brain Health



Atlantic Fellows for Health
Equity in South Africa



Atlantic Fellows for Health
Equity in Southeast Asia



Atlantic Fellows for
Social and Economic Equity



Atlantic Fellows
for Racial Equity



Atlantic Fellows
for Social Equity



Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity Global



Atlantic Institute



Our Home

THE FITZHUGH MULLAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH WORKFORCE EQUITY

The Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity program is based at the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity. The Institute was renamed in 2019 to honor AFHE co-founder Fitzhugh Mullan, MD, and his lifelong commitment to social justice, health equity and health workforce policy reform. Dr. Mullan joined GW in 1998, and in 2015, founded the GW Health Workforce Institute along with Dr. Polly Pittman.

The Institute was created to further research and education in health workforce equity. It is also the home of the Social Mission Alliance, a national movement focused on health equity and training health professionals as agents of more equitable health founded by Dr. Mullan. The Institute is housed in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, and includes distinguished faculty from the Schools of Nursing, Medicine and Health Sciences, Business, Education

and Human Development, and the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration. Members of the Institute represent an array of disciplines, including economics, anthropology, health services research, and education, as well as the professional perspectives of medicine, nursing, physician assistants, and pharmacists.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The George Washington University is an active academic citizen of Washington, D.C., the United States, and the world. Its location places it at the core of U.S. government, policy, and law. Neighbors include the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Pan American Health Organization. GW sits where the worlds of science, technology, media, and the arts converge. Students and faculty have an unparalleled opportunity to study and work alongside leaders and practitioners in every discipline, to take part in the interchanges that shape our community and the world.

SUPPORT AFHE



Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity welcomes partners to engage with us and contribute to our ability to train and nurture global health leaders from around the world. For more information on how to support us, visit healthequity.atlanticfellows.org/support

Atlantic Fellows

FOR HEALTH EQUITY

BASED AT

Fitzhugh Mullan
Institute for Health
Workforce Equity

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity
Milken Institute School of Public Health
HEALTHEQUITY.ATLANTICFELLOWS.ORG

X: *@GWFellow*

Facebook: */GWFELLOW*

LinkedIn: */company/atlantic-fellows-for-health-equity*

Instagram: */GW_FELLOW*