

Core facilitators



Marina Haque

Core Facilitator

Co-Founder

Anesthesiology Resident - Michigan, USA

Links: [Linkedin](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Background: Marina Haque is a fourth year dual degree medical and master's in health management and policy student from the University of Michigan matched into an anesthesiology residency. Within the University of Michigan, she works with the Michigan Medicine Office for Health Equity and Inclusion and is also part of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Paths of Excellence. She is a health systems and health equities researcher, with previous work ranging on the opioid epidemic within the city of Detroit to health care accessibility within urban Pakistan. In 2020, she was awarded the prestigious 2020 United States Public Health Services: Excellence in Public Health Award.

Motivation: Her interests within Students Against COVID include promoting social accountability, forging efficient collaboration networks, and helping to drive the creation of creative platforms to help others connect during this difficult time, such as the upcoming series within Students Against COVID: Love in the Time of COVID.

Goals: Creating an innovative, inclusive, and scientifically-found platform to promote improvement of overall societal welfare.



Samantha Simboo

Core Facilitator

Live Study Group Lead

Social Media Design Team Lead

Country, Region: Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. (Caribbean)

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/samantha-simboo-423ab8171

Background:

Samantha is a 4th year MBBS student from the Caribbean and is expected to graduate in 2022, after which she aspires to specialise in Surgery. She believes in a holistic approach to development and has been involved in many organizations that broadens her international connections. In addition to medicine, she has a passion for arts and graphic design which she often practices.

Motivation:

Samantha's biggest motivation is to unite with people from around the world and make a difference to the lives of many through this initiative. This experience can also help her to build professional connections by networking via virtual platforms with allies and professionals in different fields. In addition to developing her professional skills, she believes that it is a great opportunity for me to improve on her communication skills. Roles and involvements from this experience will also boost the casual aspect of her life as well in the sense that she will be better at socializing with friends and family. It gives her the opportunity to create everlasting friendships and lifelong memories with such a diverse team consisting of many different people from around the world.

Goals:

Being a medical student, Samantha's goals are not only to make a difference to the lives of patients but to be a role model for the younger generation in society. She wishes to use SAC to the best of her ability to spread knowledge and awareness.

Even when the world is in darkness, never let your sparkle fade. ~ Samantha

Naila Singh

**Social Media Lead****Core Facilitator**

Country, Region: Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. (Caribbean)

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Background:

Naila is a 20 year old, second year law student at the University of the West Indies. She is hoping to enter the Hugh Wooding Law School in 2022 and aspires to be a successful lawyer. She aspires to fight for justice and against the issues that currently plague society. Naila is passionate about being involved in new organizations and meeting new persons.

Motivation and Goals:

Naila believes that this platform (SAC) is one in which she can connect virtually with enthusiasts like herself to be a cause of change globally, make lifelong friends and everlasting memories. She believes her role in this organization would aid her organizational skills and help improve her leadership style. With regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, she intends to spread as much information as possible to ensure everyone is knowledgeable about the risks and ways to mitigate these risks. She understands the impact one person can have on the world, and strives to make the world a better place.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." -Martin Luther King Jr.

LinkedIn Team



Aleena Desai

LinkedIn Team Co-Lead

Medical Student - Birmingham, UK

Links: aleenadesai6@gmail.com, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aleena-desai/>

Background: Aleena Desai is a third year medical student at the University of Birmingham, which is a part of the research-centred Russell Group of universities. She is passionate about medical education, having been involved in widening participation, as well as public health. She hopes to one day become a compassionate physician, treating every patient holistically. For her presentation and multidisciplinary skills, she was awarded runner-up prize for the Teamwork and Leadership Activity by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. **Motivation:** Aleena believes that teamwork and communication are key to finding new ideas and improving patient care. Her interests within SAC are outreach, script-writing and mental health.

Goals: By joining SAC, Aleena hopes to spread reliable information about COVID-19 across the globe as well as expanding our international community to assist in the fight against the pandemic.



Yasmin Elkabani

**Clinical Resources Team, Outreach Co-Lead Former
Outreach Team, subdivision co-lead for LinkedIn**

Clinical Research Coordinator - Alexandria, Egypt

Links: y.mohammed2013@gmail.com

[LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#)

Background: Yasmin Elkabani is a graduate pharmacist at the faculty of pharmacy, Alexandria University year 2013. She's currently working at the Alexandria Cancer Research Center (CRC) as clinical research coordinator and pharmacist where allowed her to encounter the field of clinical research and learn research ethics. She's got the Good Clinical Practice certificate (GCP) that enabled her to collaborate professionally in clinical trials for investigational drugs. In parallel, she also spent a year working as a research assistant with a group who are working on a unique and novel approach, unprecedented here in Egypt; investigating cancer metabolism as a targeted therapy. Furthermore, she's been involved in extracurricular activities since college as volunteering is her ultimate goal for inspiration and positive influence in this world. She has been a vice president of the Academic Club and the head of the scientific committee. In addition, she engaged in diverse events including national and international conferences as a team leader and a reference librarian at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Upon graduation, she worked as a pharmacist-in-charge of immunization in a rural health unit, for almost 4 years along with a private community pharmacy store. During those years she was dispensing medications, providing health consultation regarding dosage administration. As well as, she was involved with training and supervising junior pharmacists and medical students. She is currently a Global Leadership Panel member at Fight Cancer Global Initiative settled in Texas where she is advocating for cancer patients and cancer research.

Motivation: Yasmin's utmost objective is the advocacy of patient's healthcare being at the top of priorities and public health promotion nationally and globally. Being involved in the clinical research field gives her the opportunity to achieve such perspective.

Goals: Yasmin plans to pursue a Master's in cancer research with focus on precision medicine to help maximizing patients' recovery and minimizing the recurrence of cancer while advocating for cancer patients. As part of SAC, Yasmin hopes to share her experiences and knowledge while making a difference by assisting in providing a curated COVID-19 clinical resources database easily available for everyone around the world, contributing to research projects and the MedEd research/mentorship community.

Long COVID Task Force



Britney Chen

Long COVID Research Team Lead

Public Health, Global Health Student - California, USA

Links: britney_chen@csu.fullerton.edu or britney.y.chen@gmail.com; [LinkedIn](#)

Background: Britney Chen is a fourth-year undergraduate student at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), interested in pursuing a career as an epidemiologist at the county or state level. As a dedicated scholar, she joined Eta Sigma Gamma's (ESG) National Public Health Honorary Society in her third year, where she was awarded the Academic Excellence Award at the Spring 2023 induction ceremony. Currently, she serves on ESG's executive board as the Financial Officer, Fundraising Chair, and Secretary. She works closely with faculty to organize events such as fundraisers with restaurants, Public Health gear sales, the annual Public Health symposium, and member ceremonies. Additionally, Britney is a voting member of CSUF's Student Health Advisory Committee. She collaborates with the Student Wellness Center through this organization to ensure that services and programs reflect CSUF student needs. Britney also serves as a Research Assistant to Dr. Yuko Okado's Behavioral Health Promotion Lab, which aims to bring a virtual medium of mentorship to CSUF students to increase underserved students' retention in STEM-related majors. She also works with Dr. Yuko Okado on another research initiative to understand student experiences with the coronavirus. After completing her undergraduate degree with a concentration in Global Health, she plans to attend further schooling for an MPH in Epidemiology.

Motivation: Her biggest motivation in life is to protect the public's health so that individuals can live healthier and happier lives. She hopes to achieve this through research that describes risk factors and identifies individuals most at risk for these illnesses.

Goals: At SAC, Britney wishes to distribute a global questionnaire to assess individuals' knowledge, perception, and awareness of Long COVID to understand how this differentiates among different demographics. She also wishes to help educate the public on Long COVID through a series of social media posts.

Mental Health & Wellness

Name Change Task Force

SAKSHI PINJARKAR



Team: Name change task force

Former LGBTQIA+ SUB-TEAM (co-lead)

Country: India

Links:

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Background: Sakshi Pinjarkar is a 3rd-year medical student at Grant Government Medical College. Working for the LGBTQIA community had been her pursuit ever since she joined the medical fraternity. She is also the vice president for DAMA at GGMC, she has worked with other student organizations like IMA-MSN, MSAI, CLINICASE, GSN, etc. She is an active member of the Khairat NGO (a mental health organization). She is sincere and passionate about her education & work and wants to buildup a strong network. At every opportunity she what to bring out the best she can. She is also an art enthusiast and an expressive public speaker.

Motivation: Your goal & dreams drive your life. Thrive for what to want to achieve and what is right. Have a clear vision and free spirit to overcome any difficulty. This idea is what has brought sakshi to where she is now. Fighting for the rights of the ones in need and doing what you can to bring justice to them is a professional person's duty, which is what she believes in.

Goals: Sakshi wants to contribute all her knowledge to buildup a society where every person is free to express their identity and is proud to be themselves. She wishes to be one of the best doctors in her field and make a change in society.

RICHA NATHWANI



Team: Name change task force

Former: Translation ambassador program

Country: India

Email: richa.nathwani@gmail.com

Background: Richa Nathwani is an intern at SHANTABAA MEDICAL COLLEGE, AMRELI.

Working for the upliftment of the Community by volunteering in local health centres to educate young children about hygiene and nutritious diets, following the deleterious impacts of COVID-19. She has led Translation ambassador team and helped raise awareness regarding health and hygiene during the pandemic in diverse community. She is committed to creating a positive and inclusive work environment where diversity is celebrated, and every voice is heard.

Motivation: Her motivation stems from the belief that effective leadership is the cornerstone of any successful endeavor. She is eager to leverage her experience in community health to mentor and help team members to realize their true potential. Above all, she is motivated by the potential to make a difference in the world and building a team that excels, adapts to change, and continuously strives for excellence.

Goals: Richa, strives to make this world a better place for every being. To contribute in promoting preventive health care and to make healthcare accessible to everyone in need.

Translation Team



Shanmin Sultana

<https://www.sacov19.com/shanminsultana/>

Translations Team Lead

Co-Lead for SAC Metro Detroit

Evaluation Team

Michigan, USA

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Background: Shanmin Sultana is an undergraduate student at Wayne State University (WSU) studying Sociology with a double minor in Public Health and Spanish. Shanmin works as a Student Assistant for the WSU Public Health Department, as well as mediator for Science Gallery Detroit, an interdisciplinary exhibition where she facilitates STEAM conversations with visitors and Detroit youth, while serving on the Youth Advisory Board. She co-founded "Replenish Detroit", a student-led campaign that works to increase access to safe, affordable water and sanitation in Detroit. Shanmin also co-founded "Pauseitivity", a WSU student organization that works to improve the mental and emotional health of students through positive thinking. She was recently awarded the Campus Engagement and Community Award by Wayne State University for her local water activism as well as efforts to create a positive atmosphere on campus.

Motivation: Through her affinity for learning new languages as demonstrated through her non-native language minor, Shanmin wanted to not just translate educational flyers about COVID-19, but join a team that values the importance of increasing access to accurate scientific, health-related information to non-English speaking communities.

Goals: Shanmin hopes to continue leading a team representing over 35 languages and counting in translating factual information regarding COVID-19 into as many languages as possible. She believes that everyone, regardless of language barriers, should be equipped with reliable, easy-to-understand information to educate themselves and their communities.

ADVISORY BOARD



Liana Shvachiy

Advisor

EIT Health Alumni Board and Representative to SAC

Former Women's Health Co-Lead

PhD Student - Goettingen, Germany and Lisbon, Portugal

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lianashvachiy/>

Background: Originally from Ukraine, lived 15 years in Portugal and currently living in Germany. BSc in Human Biology and MSc in Neurosciences. Currently, PhD student in Biomedical Sciences (founded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia), in several outstanding international institutes - University of Lisbon, University Medical Centre Göttingen (UMG) and Lancaster University. In February 2019 she became a Local Representative of EIT Health Alumni. Her constant dedication and hard work allowed her to become, in January 2020, the DACH Region Coordinator of the EIT Health Alumni Board, and, simultaneously, a PhD student and Ambassador of EIT Healthy Ageing PhD School (EIT Health Label).

Motivation: Natural skill and drive to help others in any way possible and finding innovative ideas of doing it has always been the number one motivator to become a member of the healthcare community. Volunteering has always been part of the free time activities. During an outbreak of a pandemic, seeing how much the world suffers, she was eager to get out there and do something. Mental health, research and women health have always been of utmost interests for her to be working on.

Goals: As a member of the board of EIT Health Alumni and leaders of Students Against COVID, Liana has brought both communities to work together to battle with the pandemics and build together the future of healthcare - more innovative, creative and sustainable.



Adriana Viola Miranda

Co-Founder

Advisor

Former Social Media Team Lead, Core Facilitator

Medical Student - Jakarta, Indonesia

Links: www.linkedin.com/in/adriana-viola-miranda-6b2581135

Background: Adriana is a 4th year medical student at University of Indonesia, which has consistently been ranked as the best university in her country. She strives to translate her passion in medical research and information technology to improve healthcare systems across the world. She has been involved in several international publications and conferences, humanitarian aid projects and national & regional scientific organizations. In between her medical lessons, she learns programming, UI/UX and graphic design, poetry writing and music composing. She recently won the MIT COVID-19 Challenge with a telemedicine solution for patients with chronic diseases.

Motivation: Adriana believes that students and youth can - and *should* - be involved in this fight to end the COVID-19 pandemic, with their own skills & capabilities. She also would like to spread credible information in her country - in which misinformation and hoaxes are still prevalent, if not

worse after the pandemic - and take part in building a better post-COVID world. She believes Students Against COVID is the right platform since it is an international, multidisciplinary community of students - the stakeholders of the future.

Goals: Along with her team, she aims to reach and inspire students & allies worldwide with social media campaigns, as well as ending the stigma and hoaxes related to the pandemic.

Advisors:



Christos Tsagkaris

Co-Founder

Medical Student - Athens, Greece

Links:

Background: Christos is a 5th year medical student at the University of Crete (UoC), graduating in July 2021. He is affiliated with several scientific students associations and NGOs, including the Association of European Cancer Leagues, where he serves as a Youth Ambassador, the European Student Think Tank, where he holds the office of the Editor in Chief and the NovelMeds. Christos has lived and worked in Taiwan, Lebanon, Brazil and Mexico.

Motivation: Being passionate about travelling, networking and working with people from all over the globe, he has a keen interest in Medical Humanities and Space Medicine among others. Identifying himself as a multitasking person, he welcomes any new endeavor asking "Why not?". Writing and editing between various genres from scientific articles to poetry and fiction as well as painting are some of his most favorite endeavors.

Goals: Christos envisions the movement as a virtual Agora where students and allies across the globe cross paths, bring up ideas, exchange constructive feedback, and build synergies under the notion of "Act – React – Impact"
