

NAME: KARIS GORAK

DISCIPLINE: MEDICINE

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

I hold a master's degree in bilingual education and have experience teaching children with autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders. My teaching has spanned various settings, including bilingual classrooms in Spain, where I developed customized curricula to support bilingual children with unique educational challenges. Currently, I am a PhD student working under Dr. Reshma Shah, focusing on research that addresses disparities in healthcare and therapeutic access for children with disabilities from marginalized communities.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

My primary goal during the LEND training experience is to deepen my understanding of the complex factors that influence healthcare access and outcomes for children with disabilities, particularly those from marginalized communities. I aim to develop advanced skills in interdisciplinary collaboration and leadership, which will be essential in my future work as a physician and researcher. Additionally, I hope to engage with and learn from the diverse perspectives of other professionals in the program, enabling me to become a more effective advocate for equity in healthcare and education.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as an advocate/professional/family member in the field:

In the future, I aspire to contribute to the field as a physician and researcher who champions equitable access to healthcare, education, and therapeutic services for children with disabilities. I aim to leverage my training and experiences to advocate for policy reforms that address disparities affecting marginalized communities. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and mentoring the next generation of professionals, I hope to drive meaningful change and ensure that all children, regardless of background, receive the support they need to thrive.