

BSOM Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies

The goal of the Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies Summer Fellowship program is to stimulate interest in ethical, cultural, aesthetic, and social dimensions of health, disease, and healing by inviting first year medical students to develop and submit original proposals relating to humanities and medicine. Students may work on projects in North Carolina, or they may use the Fellowship as an opportunity to do a project elsewhere in the United States or abroad. Proposals are awarded on a competitive basis. Student Fellows have the summer between their first and second year to develop and complete their Fellowship. At the conclusion of their projects, Fellows submit a paper, or other appropriate product, and give several public presentations.

The Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies is pleased to be offering these two Fellowships in 2012 in collaboration with the Brody Summer Research Scholars Program.

We Are Pleased To Announce This Year's Summer Fellowship Recipients

Women and HIV Testing in Rural Areas of Swaziland, Africa

Hunter will be conducting a qualitative, descriptive study in Swaziland, Africa, by gathering information through interviews with Swazi women over the age of fifteen, focusing on understanding the cultural perspective and reasons behind their lack of knowledge of their HIV status. Her goal is to gather information that can be used to better understand why a majority of women in Swaziland have never been tested for HIV.

Hunter believes this insight into cultural perspective can benefit healthcare workers and the ways they approach and educate Swazi women with regard to HIV status and testing.



Hunter Johnson



Aniqah Shahrier

The Identification of Physician Strategies to Manage Cultural Beliefs about Diarrheal Disease in Bangladesh

Using the context of diarrheal disease, Aniqah will investigate the strategies that physicians in Bangladesh use to address the cultural beliefs their patients report. She will interview ten to twelve physicians at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to gather insights that will help other physicians when they encounter cultural beliefs about health in their patients.

We plan to share the results of each Fellow's project this Fall as part of our Perspectives Series.

2012 Summer Fellowship Program