



## **Who We Are**

The Yale Network for Global Non-Communicable Diseases (NGN, pronounced “engine”) is a group of committed faculty from the Schools of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing whose research, clinical practice, advocacy efforts, and teaching are focused on addressing non-communicable diseases both locally and globally. We are committed to supporting one another in our work because we fundamentally believe we can do more together than alone, and that interdisciplinary collaboration is the engine that will drive our success.

## **How We Came Together**

NGN formed shortly following the US Investigators’ Symposium on Global NCD Research at Emory University in 2014. We met regularly and spent time learning about one another’s academic activities and goals. In Fall 2016, to grow our networks, we formally launched NGN with a university-wide symposium (*Fostering Cross-Campus Collaboration at Yale on the Global Non-Communicable Disease Crisis*) supported by the MacMillan Center Kempf Fund, the Global Health Leadership Institute, and the Yale Institute for Network Science. The Symposium was attended by nearly 100 members of the Yale community, many of whom have since been collaborating with NGN members on projects and activities.

## **What We Have Accomplished**

Members of our network have longstanding relationships and ongoing projects in communities across Africa, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and in vulnerable communities in the United States.

*Research Activities:* In 2018 NGN received a Hecht Global Health Faculty Network Award to sponsor our work on self-care among patients with NCDs in rural Uganda. We subsequently obtained a 2021 Hecht Global Health Faculty Network Award to focus on strengthening capacity among and between our international and Yale partners. NGN faculty have a strong track record of successfully competing for scientific grants from private foundations and federal sponsors (NIH K awards, R21, R01, and other mechanisms) and have consulted for the World Bank and U.S. Department of State. NGN members actively mentor trainees from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Yale College. We have published collaboratively on NCD-related topics, in high-impact journals including *JAMA*, *the Lancet* series, *Nature Genetics*, and *BMJ*.

*Educational Activities:* We teach and develop curricula for the Yale Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health. We train residents and fellows, develop training programs, and participate on

multiple committees to improve care delivery here in New Haven, nationally, and abroad. We deliver lectures on global NCDs on campus and host outside speakers during campus visits.

*Advocacy:* Our members have served on advisory boards for organizations advocating for global health, and contributed to the *New York Times* op-ed page, *The Huffington Post*, *Time*, *The Hill*, and the *PLoS Translational Global Health Blog*.

### ***NGN Founding Faculty***



**Nicola L. Hawley, PhD – Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Chronic Diseases).** Dr. Hawley's expertise is in the impact of non-communicable disease (particularly obesity, and hypertension) on maternal and child health. Her research focuses predominantly on Pacific Islander populations, although she has ongoing collaborations in South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Mexico, and the US. Methodologically, Dr. Hawley employs a life-course approach that utilizes cross-sectional, cohort, and randomized controlled trial designs to address questions of causality and identify critical periods of susceptibility.



**Evelyn Hsieh, MD, PhD (NGN Network Lead) – Associate Professor of Medicine (Rheumatology) and Epidemiology (Chronic Diseases).** Dr. Hsieh's research encompasses clinical, epidemiological, and health services research focused on musculoskeletal and rheumatic disease outcomes and aging. This body of work includes aging and HIV, osteoporosis/fractures, sarcopenia, osteoarthritis, and women's health in Peru, China, Uganda and the U.S. Additionally, she directs the Yale Rheumatology Program in Global and Community Health and is Associate Program Director for the Global Health Emerging Scholars Program.



**Tracy Rabin, MD, SM – Associate Professor of Medicine (General Medicine).** Dr. Rabin is an Internist and Pediatrician, Director of the Office of Global Health (Department of Internal Medicine), and Associate Program Director for Global and Community Health in Yale Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program. She co-directs the Makerere University-Yale University medical education capacity building collaboration which is based in Kampala, Uganda. Her areas of interest include both domestic and international global health and education; global health ethics; and the prevention and management of diabetes.



**Jeremy Schwartz, MD – Associate Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and Epidemiology (Chronic Disease).** Dr. Schwartz's work focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in NCD care in Uganda. His areas of focus include self-care, mobile health, clinical integration of HIV and HTN, and access to essential NCD medicines. He is a co-founder, and the US-based co-Director, of the Uganda Initiative for the Integrated Management of NCDs. Dr. Schwartz is Lead of the Yale Institute for Global Health Faculty Network Program.

## *NGN Faculty Members*



**Amit Achhra, PhD, MPH – Assistant Professor of Public Health (*Infectious Diseases*).** Dr. Achhra's research interests are in epidemiological studies in HIV/AIDS. Some of his notable work has focused on the impact of BMI and weight gain from antiretroviral therapy on diabetes and cardiovascular outcomes, dual-drug therapies for HIV/AIDS, inflammatory markers and clinical outcomes in HIV, and implementation research on improving HIV treatment outcomes in Asia-Pacific, amongst others.



**Joshua Bilsborrow, MD, MHS – Assistant Professor of Medicine (*Rheumatology*).** Dr. Bilsborrow has been a member of the Yale Rheumatology faculty since 2020, and previously completed his internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship training here. He was a 2016 Yale/Johnson and Johnson Global Health Scholar to Rwanda where he developed a love for that country and an interest in helping to expand medical education opportunities there. He developed a rheumatology education and training curriculum for internal medicine residents and generalists in Rwanda in 2023. He also collaborated on rheumatology educational projects in Uganda in 2023 and 2024. His longer-term interests in global health include capacity building with academic medical centers in Africa and increasing opportunities for training rheumatologists to serve their home countries.



**Sharon Chekijian, MD, MPH – Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine.** Dr. Chekijian's research interests lie in global emergency medicine and include emergency care systems development in LMICs, unintentional injury prevention in LMICs, as well as stroke and cardiac care in LMICs. Dr. Chekijian has led and participated in projects in the Republic of Armenia, Uganda, and Iraq. She has consulted for the World Bank and the US Department of State and USAID. She is active member of the Stroke Initiative Advisory Task-Force for Armenia and was recently inducted into the Armenian Stroke Council.



**Mayur M. Desai, PhD, MPH – Associate Professor of Public Health (*Chronic Disease Epidemiology*).** Dr. Desai's work is in the application of epidemiologic methods to clinical and health services research. Most of his research effort is devoted to mentored, team-science projects in which he is leading or substantially contributing to the analytic and methodological aspects of the work. The overarching goal of his work – across various content areas – is to improve health equity in access, quality, and outcomes of care in a broad range of populations and settings.



**Ashley Hagaman, PhD, MPH – Assistant Professor of Public Health (Social and Behavioral Sciences).** Dr. Hagaman is a qualitative methodologist who examines the complex collection of factors that influence depression and suicide in varying cultural contexts, particularly among vulnerable populations. She collaborates with several interdisciplinary teams around the world to develop and test innovative strategies to alleviate depression and enhance maternal health systems, with field sites in Nepal, Pakistan, and Ethiopia. She also contributes to the development of innovative qualitative and mixed methods to improve the study of evidence-based practices.



**Sarah Lowe, PhD – Associate Professor of Public Health (Social and Behavioral Sciences).** Dr. Lowe’s research focuses on the consequences of exposure to a range of potentially traumatic events for mental health and other domains of functioning. She examines long-term post-trauma mental health symptom patterns, the mechanisms leading from trauma exposure to outcomes, and the role of factors at various socio-ecological levels in shaping risk and resilience. She is currently working on a examining the intergenerational transmission of traumatic stress related to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. She also teaches the YSPH course “Trauma and Health.”



**Josefa L. Martinez, PhD, MHS – Instructor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine).** Dr. Martinez is a maternal and child public health nutrition investigator and implementation scientist with a focus on translating effective interventions into public health policy and practice in disparity populations. She has extensive experience using social and behavioral theory in research design, piloting, implementation, and evaluation.



**Carol Oladele, PhD, MPH – Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine).** Dr. Oladele’s research focuses on social determinants of cardiovascular health disparities, with specific focus on the role of nutrition, healthcare quality, food, and built environments, including development of dietary assessment methodologies for African descent populations. Her research aims to generate evidence to support health policies and interventions to improve cardiovascular outcomes among racial/ethnic and immigrant populations. Dr. Oladele’s current work examines the role of food insecurity and ultra-processed food on disparities in hypertension incidence and control.



**Eleanor Reid, MD, MSc – Assistant Professor of Medicine (Emergency Medicine).** Dr. Reid specializes in defining the conditions and the context that make palliative care an essential, cost efficient, yet missing component of care in humanitarian and low resource settings. She is currently the Principal Investigator of a randomized controlled trial of early palliative care in Ethiopia and is collaborating with international partners on other projects at the intersection of palliative care and Emergency Medicine in East Africa.



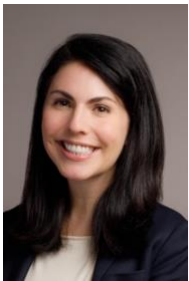
**Erica Spatz, MD, MHS – *Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and Associate Professor of Public Health (Chronic Disease Epidemiology)***. Dr. Spatz is a general cardiologist and clinical investigator at the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE). Her clinical and research interests include the development of individualized approaches to preventing and managing cardiovascular disease, along with tools to help patients become more active in their healthcare decisions.



**Donna Spiegelman, ScD – *Professor of Public Health (Biostatistics)***. Dr. Spiegelman's research is motivated by problems which arise in epidemiology and require biostatistical settlement. In particular, she focused on methods for study design and data analysis which reduce bias in estimation and inference due to measurement error or misclassification in the exposure variable. A particular current interest is risk-based monitoring of multi center investigations to enhance quality and prevent fraud. She has extensive expertise in troubleshooting and solving methodological issues that arise in longitudinal investigations, in clinical trials, and in large scale public health effectiveness evaluations.



**Karen Wang, MD, MHS – *Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine) and Assistant Professor of Biostatistics (Health Informatics)***. Dr. Wang's work is at the intersection of health equity, informatics, and data justice with a focus on optimizing health and health-related information, data, and technology for marginalized communities. Her research goal is to improve the health of marginalized communities by engaging them in the collection and use of health data and improving the quality of social and structural determinants of health data, such as race, ethnicity, and residential address.



**Nancy Ringel, MD, MS – *Assistant Professor, (Division of Urogynecology & Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences)***. Dr. Ringel is a Urogynecologist and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgeon focused on using clinical research to improve the lives of women globally. She spent several years working in global health with multiple organizations including the US Peace Corps and UNICEF Innovation prior to starting her medical career, where she focused on using community-based interventions and innovative technologies to improve health care systems and delivery. Her current research focuses on involving communities to design interventions that will improve access to care for chronic pelvic floor conditions. She has worked in Zambia, India, Ghana, Rwanda, and the Dominican Republic on numerous clinical and global health projects. Her areas of expertise include global health delivery, health systems strengthening, mobile health, program design and implementation, community-based interventions, and education and training.



**Zhao Ni, PhD, BMedSci, RN – *Assistant Professor of Nursing and Public Health***. Dr. Ni's research focuses on using mobile technologies to prevent cardiovascular disease and HIV/AIDS. He has conducted international research at the interface of chronic diseases and mobile health in the U.S., China, Cameroon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, and Philippines. His current projects are funded by the NIH and focus on developing artificial intelligence chatbots to promote HIV testing and prevention in Malaysia among populations at high risk for HIV. Dr. Ni is a contact PI and project director of a R21/R33 project and R21 project, respectively. Dr. Ni is also a faculty lead of the Yale Office of Global Affairs & Planetary Health and serves as the Director of International Academic Partnerships and Programs.



**Isil Yildiz, MD, MPH – *Assistant Professor of Pathology***

Dr. Yildiz-Aktas is an Assistant Professor of Pathology at Yale School of Medicine. She is board certified in anatomic pathology and cytopathology. She also holds a master's degree in public health from University of Pittsburgh. In addition to pathology practice, her interests lie in cancer screening and prevention, digital health and digital pathology and integration of AI, healthcare quality and patient safety, and global health. She has been selected as a 2023 American Society of Cytopathology/Bio Ventures for Global Health Ambassador. She also serves as Digital Pathology Section Editor for National Standardization Guide Ebook that is being prepared by The Federation of Turkish Pathology Societies.



**Kai Chen, PhD – *Assistant Professor of Epidemiology (Environmental Health)***.

Dr. Chen's research focuses on the intersection of climate change, air pollution, and human health. His work involves applying multidisciplinary approaches in climate and air pollution sciences, exposure assessment, and environmental epidemiology to investigate how climate change may impact human health. Much of his work has been done in China, Europe, and the United States.



**Kaveh Khoshnood, PhD, MPH – *Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Microbial Diseases)***.

Dr. Khoshnood is co-founder of Yale Violence and Health Study Group and a faculty member of the Program on Conflict, Resiliency, and Health at the Yale MacMillan Center. He is a trained infectious disease epidemiologist and has more than three decades of domestic and international experience in HIV prevention research among people who use drugs and other at-risk populations. His research interests include 1) epidemiology and prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2) research ethics, and 3) humanitarian health. His research is primarily focused on populations in

China, Lebanon, and Bhutan.



**Michael Beasley, MD, FACC – *Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine)***. Dr. Beasley is a medical doctor who pursued more specialized training in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. He attends patients on inpatient cardiovascular wards at Yale New Haven Hospital at York Street and St. Raphael’s and sees patient at a clinic in Norwich, CT and works in cardiac catheterization labs in New Haven and New London. Dr. Beasley is also a Medical Corps Officer in the United States Navy Reserve.



– ***Assistant Professor of Nursing***. Dr. Feder is an organizational and health services researcher whose interests include palliative and end of life care delivery for people with non-cancer serious illness, health policy related to palliative and end-of-life care, medical informatics, and digital health interventions.



**Norissa Haynes, MD – *Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine)***. Dr. Haynes specializes in treating patients with heart conditions, including heart failure, structural heart disease, and atherosclerosis, a disease caused by a buildup of plaque that narrows the heart’s arteries. Dr. Haynes utilizes advanced diagnostic tools, such as chest CT scans and myocardial biopsies, to develop effective treatment plans and recommends cardiac rehabilitation services for patients recovering from major heart procedures. Dr. Haynes is an assistant professor of medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. She is also an affiliate professor at the Yale Institute for Global Health.



**Robert McNamara, MD, MHS – *Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine)***. Dr. McNamara is trained in internal medicine, cardiology, and clinical epidemiology. As part of the International Team of Educators to Advance Cardiovascular Health (ITEACH), he is active in collaborating with investigators in implementation science and cardiovascular education in many international settings. Projects include systemic and pulmonary hypertension in Colombia; hypertension, perinatal cardiovascular outcomes, and cardiovascular education in El Salvadore, Rheumatic Heart Disease in Indonesia, Chagas Disease in North and South America, and training in point-of-care ultrasound nationally and internationally.



**N. Abimbola Sunmonu, MD, PhD – *Assistant Professor of Neurology***



**Basile Njei, MD, MPH, PhD – *Affiliated Faculty, Yale Institute for Global Health; Co-Director, International Medicine Program, Digestive Diseases*** Dr. Njei is the Co-Director of the International Medicine Program within Yale's Section of Digestive Diseases and serves as a gastroenterologist at the West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital in Connecticut. His research centers on applying artificial intelligence and genetics to enhance the diagnosis of chronic liver diseases.



**Carlos Mena-Hurtado MD, FACC, FSCAI, FAHA** - Dr. Mena-Hurtado, is an interventional cardiologist, Director of the Peripheral Vascular Disease Program, and the Co-director of the Vascular Medicine Outcomes Program (VAMOS) at Yale Medicine. He specializes in using minimally invasive procedures to treat conditions in the heart and peripheral vascular system. Dr. Mena and his colleagues at the peripheral vascular disease program conduct research on treatments for carotid stenosis, a condition that narrows the blood vessels in the neck that carry blood from the heart to the brain, and limb ischemia, a condition that causes severe blockage in the arteries of the lower extremities.



**Farzana Pashankar MD, MRCP, MBBS** – Dr Farzana Pashankar is an accomplished pediatric hematologist oncologist, specializing in care of children with sickle cell disease and solid tumors. She is an international expert in germ cell tumors and rare tumors. Her research has focused on clinical trial development through Children's Oncology Group, and she is the Chair and Vice Chair of international trials in germ cell tumors. Dr Pashankar is Director of Pediatric Solid Tumor Program, Disease Aligned Research Team Leader for Pediatrics at Smilow Cancer Center and Director of the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Fellowship Program. Dr Pashankar received her MBBS and MD from University of Pune, India. She trained in United Kingdom, receiving an MRCP. She subsequently did a residency at University of Iowa and fellowship at British Columbia Children's Hospital, before joining Yale in 2005.



**Gyanprakash Ketwaroo - *Associate Professor of Medicine (Digestive Diseases); Chief of Endoscopy, Gastroenterology*** Avinash Ketwaroo, MD MSc, Director of Endoscopy at the West Haven VA, is an advanced endoscopist who specializes in Barrett's esophagus and pancreatic disorders. His current research focuses on ergonomics and quality of endoscopy. Originally from the Caribbean, he leads Global Health missions to enhance access to quality digestive care in this region.



**Courtney Choy, PhD, MPH – *Associate Research Scientist (Chronic Disease Epidemiology)***. Dr. Courtney Choy is an associate research scientist in the Department of Chronic Disease Epidemiology. Over the past decade, she has studied chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, cancer, and hypertension in Samoa, a Pacific Island nation with a high prevalence of these conditions. Her work focuses on (1) understanding risk and protective factors to prevent obesity and related cardiometabolic conditions and (2) adapting and testing multi-component interventions for children to encourage behavioral changes to reduce their high cardiometabolic risk



**Ilan Harpaz-Rotem, PhD, ABPP** – Dr. Harpaz-Rotem is a Professor of Psychiatry and of Psychology at Yale University. He is a clinical psychologist who, for many years, has conducted research and provided treatment to individuals exposed to trauma. Dr. Harpaz-Rotem serves as an investigator at the National Center for PTSD, and he also directs the evaluation of VA PTSD treatment programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Northeast Program Evaluation Center, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VA Central Office. Research into how to modify traumatic memories and their associated emotions is one of the core questions that guide his work.



**Kim Germaine Emiel Smolderen, PhD, MSc** – Dr. Smolderen is an Associate Professor at Yale, co-director of the Vascular Medicine Outcomes Program, and co-founder of the integrated cardiovascular behavioral health program at Yale New Haven Health. She has led multiple international registries for peripheral artery disease (PAD) and has received significant funding for her research on patient trajectories, pain, behavioral factors, and care outcomes in vascular disease management. With over 120 peer-reviewed publications, she is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, and she co-chairs the AHA's PAD national action plan. Additionally, she serves on editorial boards and is a board member of the APA's Health Psychology Division. Dr. Smolderen advocates for a patient-centered approach in cardiovascular care, emphasizing the importance of the patient voice and mental health in treatment models.



**Lei Chen MD, MHS, BS - *Professor of Pediatrics (Emergency Medicine) and of Emergency Medicine; Affiliated Faculty, Yale Institute for Global Health; Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine*** Dr. Chen's academic interests pertain to applying new technologies to improve the care of acutely ill and injured children, both here in New Haven and across the globe. To that end I have taught trainees from Africa and Asia, often with a portable ultrasound in-tow.



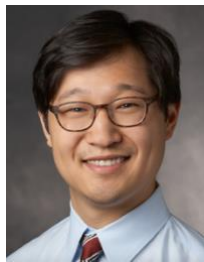
**Terika McCall PhD, MPH, MBA - *Assistant Professor of Biostatistics (Health Informatics)*** Dr. Terika McCall is an Assistant Professor in the Biostatistics Department at Yale School of Public Health and the Director of the Consumer Health Informatics Lab (CHIL). Her research focuses on reducing disparities in mental health service access through technology, particularly using telehealth to support underserved communities. With expertise in user-centered design and usability testing, she leads multidisciplinary teams in developing digital health tools. Dr. McCall teaches a course on designing these tools and has worked on various projects, including a mental health app for Black American women and a mobile app for individuals with incarceration histories, among others.



**Drew B Cameron PhD, MA – *Assistant Professor of Public Health (Health Policy and Management)*** Dr. Cameron is a health economist and Assistant Professor in Health Policy and Management. His research focuses on the design and execution of randomized controlled trials, cost data collection, and cost-effectiveness analysis. He studies supply- and demand-side barriers to diagnosis, linkage, and adherence for non-communicable diseases, with a focus on Uganda. His work emphasizes integration into existing health systems, examining current cascades of care and developing innovative approaches to improve care delivery and patient outcomes



**Anna Porter, MPH, PhD – *Associate Research Scientist*** Dr. Porter is an Associate Research Scientist at the Center for Methods for Implementation and Prevention Science. She is a behavioral epidemiologist working on implementation science for cardiovascular disease and cancer prevention and control. Her work has historically focused on examining the multi-level factors associated with physical activity behaviors, and the association of physical activity with health. Her current projects are focused in populations in Nepal, Mexico, and the United States.



**Andrew Y. Chang, MD, PhD – *Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine)*** Dr. Chang is a cardiologist and epidemiologist whose work spans multiple topics and methodologies. His primary research efforts explore environmental determinants of cardiovascular health, especially those linked to climate change. As an echocardiographer, however, he is also interested in expanding the use of cardiac ultrasound in low-resource settings. He is particularly committed to improving care for people living with rheumatic heart disease, one of the most neglected conditions worldwide. He primarily collaborates with the Uganda Heart Institute in Kampala.



**Valeria Navarro-Galarza, MD, MSc -** Dr. Valeria Navarro-Galarza is a Physician-Scientist from Cayetano Heredia University in Lima, Peru, with an MSc in Global Health from Georgetown University. She is a 2024–2025 Global Health Emerging Scholars (GHES) fellow, leading a pilot study on rheumatic and musculoskeletal disorders in people living with HIV, using the Community Oriented Program for Control of Rheumatic Disease (COPCORD) methodology. Mentored by Dr. Patty Garcia and Dr. Evelyn Hsieh, she is analyzing study data and strengthening evidence in this area. Dr. Navarro-Galarza aspires to lead research unifying and improving health systems in Peru and Latin America.



**Shilpa Murthy, MD, MPH - *Assistant Professor of Surgery (Colon and Rectal)***



**Guangyu Tong, PhD - *Assistant Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Assistant Professor of Biostatistics***



**Christine Ngaruiya, MD, MSc, DTMH - *Associate Professor Adjunct Emergency Medicine***

***NGN Postdoctoral Associates & Research and Clinical Fellows***



**Diego M. Cabrera, MD – *Postdoctoral Associate (Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology)***. Dr. Cabrera’s research interests include the musculoskeletal outcomes of infectious diseases like HIV and COVID-19, and age-related chronic complications of HIV. Under the mentorship of Drs. Evelyn Hsieh and Patricia J. Garcia, he has lead studies on long term musculoskeletal complications among Peruvian women aging with HIV, including osteoporosis, sarcopenia and vertebral fractures. Dr. Cabrera completed medical school at Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University and then an NIH Fogarty Global Health Fellowship in Lima, Peru.



**Sumaiya Sabnam, NGN Research Fellow – *MPH Candidate (Social and Behavioral Sciences)***. Sumaiya serves as the NGN Research Fellow, where she plays an important role in collaborating with the core NGN team to ensure the efficient coordination of faculty network activities and provides valuable support for ongoing research projects. Her academic and research interests are centered around advancing health equity and justice within the areas of cancer care, prevention, and treatment. She is passionate about addressing NCDs among underserved populations and is committed to building sustainable and community-centered health systems in low-resource settings.



**Mikaili Charlemagne, MPH – NGN Research Fellow, (*Chronic Disease Epidemiology*)**. In this role, she collaborates with the NGN team to support and contributes to ongoing research projects focused on improving public health outcomes. Her research interests center on health equity, health policy, and maternal health, with a particular emphasis on their integration into the prevention, treatment, and management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and sickle cell disease. Mikaili has contributed to initiatives with UNESCO, the Yale Equity Research and Innovation Center, and the Yale Global Health Leadership Initiative, underscoring her dedication to advancing equitable and sustainable health systems at both local and global levels.



**Joselito Malca Hernandez, MD – Research Fellow (*Global Health Equity Scholars Program, YSPH*)** Dr. Malca is currently working on a Global Health Equity Scholars funded project, mentored by Dr. Patricia Garcia from *Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia* and Dr. Evelyn Hsieh from Yale University, to validate three screening tools for osteoporosis and sarcopenia among people aging with HIV in Peru. As secondary objectives, he is exploring their expectations regarding the aging process and has translated and is validating the Episodic Disability Questionnaire among the same population, in partnership with Dr. Kelly O'Brien from the University of Toronto. After his fellowship year, he is interested in applying for an MPH in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases.



**Malama Tafuna'i, MBChB, MMSc, PGDip, PhD - Postdoctoral Fellow, (*Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases*)** Malama is a Pacific health researcher and Primary care Physician based in Samoa. She is affiliated with the University of Otago and is Interim-CEO of the Samoa Cancer Society. Her PhD explored chronic kidney disease epidemiology among Samoans in Samoa and New Zealand. Her research interests include chronic kidney disease, cancer, palliative care, climate change, and Indigenous health equity. She is a Global-Health-Emerging Scholar. Her work integrates Pacific perspectives into medical education and health systems, advancing culturally responsive care and equity-driven research.



**Carla C. Villanueva-Colina, MD - Postdoctoral Research Fellow (*Global Health Emerging Scholars*)** Dr. Villanueva-Colina is a physician and researcher from Cayetano Heredia University in Lima, Peru, currently serving as a Global Health Emerging Scholars (GHES) Fellow for the 2024–2025 cycle. Under the mentorship of Dr. Evelyn Hsieh and Dr. Patricia J. Garcia, she is leading a cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) of screening and treatment strategies for osteoporosis among people living with HIV. Her research focuses on the intersection of HIV and chronic non-communicable diseases, with a particular interest in translating scientific evidence into integrated and sustainable health services. Dr. Villanueva-Colina is committed to advancing research and implementation efforts that strengthen health systems in Peru and across Latin America.