

Mentors

Over the course of the hackathon, participating teams will have the ability to meet with mentors in order to help gain a better understanding of the core issues associated with providing health services to displaced populations in the different context areas. Mentors have been selected so as to have a wide range of expertise on hand to answer questions, provide in-depth context, and help guide your ideas to “real-world” relevance. We encourage you to make use of this valuable resource!

Nour Audi

Nour Audi is a DrPH candidate at the Heilbrunn department of population and family health in Mailman school of public health. He received his medical degree from Al Kalamoon university in Syria before completing an internal medicine residency at Damascus school of medicine. He worked in the first aid response teams of the Syrian Red Crescent throughout the current conflict. Then, moved to work with the Damascus-based international humanitarian sector focusing on rehabilitation of primary health centers and establishing community healthcare workers teams that support self-management of chronic diseases. He completed a Master of Public Health degree at Brown school of public health. Topics of interest includes chronic diseases in protracted conflicts, conflict-related social determinants of health, and spatial access to health.

Cyril Bennouna

Cyril is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at Brown, specializing in comparative politics and international relations. His work with populations affected by civil war and forced migration has focused on preventing violence against civilians, improving access to public services (e.g. mental health and psychosocial support), and strengthening governance institutions. He has worked on program designs, evaluations, policy reviews, and research projects for various development and humanitarian organizations, such as the World Bank, UNICEF, Mercy Corps, and USAID. He has a Master’s in Public Health from Columbia University and a Bachelor’s in Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science from the University of Michigan.

Akosua Boadiwaa Adu-Boahene

Akosua Adu-Boahene founded WTL Health Clinic, Inc, a free clinic located in Pawtucket. In January, members of the Health Services Council at the RI Department of Health voted unanimously in favor of WTL Health Clinic being licensed as an Ambulatory Care Facility in R.I.

In her role as Practitioner in Residence, for the Swearer Center, Akosua worked to create internships and electives for Brown undergraduate, public health and medical students, as well as family medicine residents interested in health care for the underserved. Her ultimate goal is for the free clinic to be student-run. Akosua received her Master's in Public Health from Brown in 2016. While pursuing her MPH, she published a health needs assessment for West African immigrants and laid the groundwork to open the WTL Health Clinic.

Ben Gallo

Ben Gallo is a first-year medical student at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He is an international student from Managua, Nicaragua and cares deeply about improving access to quality care in Central America and beyond. Ben has worked in healthcare technology startups, has written case studies on successful Central American life science startups for graduate students at the INCAE Business School of Costa Rica and is currently working on several projects based in Colombia with Dr. Kate Moretti through the Global Emergency Medicine Internship Program. Ben is also writing inclusive clinical cases in immunology and biochemistry with Dr. Thais Mather and is working on a project with Dr. Gowri Anandarajah that will assess the beliefs and values of the Rhode Island Latino community regarding quality end of life care. In addition, Ben has been actively supporting from abroad ways to offer clinical and non-clinical assistance to Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica that were forcefully relocated after the 2018 human rights crisis that the authoritarian Nicaraguan government has fueled. Prior to coming to Brown, Ben studied molecular biology at Princeton University and pursued a pre-health post-bacc program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Peter Haas

Peter Haas is the Associate Director of the Humanity Centered Robotics Initiative at Brown. Prior to Brown for nearly ten years from 2004 to 2014, he was the Executive Director of the Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group (AIDG.org), that worked in Haiti and Guatemala on design for extreme affordability. During his time at AIDG Haas managed disaster responses to landslides, floods and an earthquake. In 2010 he spoke about AIDG's response to the Haiti earthquake at TED Global. He is a TED senior fellow and an Echoing Green Fellow. He gives talks globally on robotics and AI but also on poverty alleviation, IDP camp infrastructure, and disaster response. He has hands on experience building drones, IOT devices, water systems, stoves, biogas systems, and hydroelectric systems.

Elizabeth Dean Hermann

Lili Hermann is a Professor of Landscape Architecture and Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design where she teaches interdisciplinary courses on the urban built environment; transdisciplinary design in the context of social and economic development; urban water issues, poverty and land rights; sustainability and resilience; and critical cartography looking at issues of displacement, place and identity. She is Founder and Co-Director of DESINE Lab, an applied research lab where faculty, students and alumni from RISD, together with students from Brown, work with partners in South Asia, Africa, Latin America and the US to develop and implement design-based integrated multi-scalar social and economic strategies for under-resourced, post-conflict, and post-disaster societies. The work covers the arenas of human capacity building, livelihood development, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, education and institution building, and the built environment and sustainable practices.

Dr. Fadi Issa

An Emergency Medicine consultant with 10-years' experience working in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, Dr. Issa completed his medical school in Romania and his residency in Jordan University Hospital Board certified in emergency medicine in Jordan. Fellowship in Disaster Medicine in 2018 and the European Master in Disaster Medicine in 2015, Dr. Issa is a core faculty

and Director of Disaster Preparedness Education Initiative at BIDMC Fellowship in Disaster Medicine, Harvard affiliated hospital. Joined SAMS (Syrian American Medical Society) in two missions to Jordan where they provided medical assistance to the Syrian refugees, last mission January 2020. Member of organizing committee for the 1 st International Conference on Humanitarian Crises held on March 2018. Member of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, SIG chair of counter- Terrorism Medicine His special interest are the Youth Preparedness Programs, humanitarian Crises and response.

Vassilis Michailidis

Vassilis Michailidis is the Chief of Staff at the The Home Project, a unifying initiative set up to address the needs of unaccompanied refugee children. Through its programs it looks to provide relief from suffering to all those affected by the crisis and to give hope out of despair. Vassilis is responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the management team, manages communications and information flow, and collaborates closely with key partners to ensure that the organization's model is implemented in the most efficient way. Vassilis holds a Certificate in Computer Graphics DTP before attending the undergraduate program at the Psychology Department at The American College of Greece - Deree. During his academic career, he was awarded with the International Honors Program Merit Scholarship and has participated in the Safe Touches

Program, a personal safety training program for children. He has been actively participating in psychotherapy groups and training workshops at the Center of Research on Human Behavior since 2012.

Catalina González Marqués

Dr. Catalina González Marqués is currently a second year Global Emergency Medicine Fellow in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brown University. She received her Medical Doctorate from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. After, she completed her specialty training in Emergency Medicine at the University of Florida where she also served as Chief Resident. Currently in her fellowship, Dr. González Marqués is working towards her Master's in Public Health at Brown University. Her current research interests include the care and impact of traumatic injuries in Kigali, Rwanda and the coordination of humanitarian response in natural disasters and conflicts. She also works on the ground in Rwanda conducting clinical teaching of emergency department residents and building research capacity at the University Teaching Hospital. She has also been involved as an instructor for the World Health Organization's Basic Emergency Care Course in Belize. More recently, she became a humanitarian response physician for the International Medical Corps and deployed to Grand Bahama to assist in recovery efforts after Hurricane Dorian.

Dr. Kate Moretti

Dr. Kate Moretti is an Assistant Professor and Global Health Fellow in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brown University. She received her Medical Doctorate from the Albany Medical College in Albany, New York and attended residency in emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. During medical school and residency, Dr. Moretti focused on the integration of refugees into the US medical system. More recently, she has focused on access to emergency care in post-conflict Colombia. Dr. Moretti is currently pursuing a Masters in Clinical and Translation Research at Brown University.

David Polatty

Dave is a professor at the U.S. Naval War College (NWC), Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and consultant to humanitarian organizations and nonprofit security organizations. He has over 27 years of professional experience with a focus on national and human security, crisis planning, and humanitarian response. Dave specializes in joint/multinational military operations, strategy development, leadership, crisis planning, humanitarian operations, and maritime security. His research interests include humanitarian civilian-military coordination, militarization of humanitarian aid, mitigation of civilian casualties in conflict, deconfliction of humanitarian

operations, climate change, urbanization, militaries' role in infectious disease outbreaks, and the erosion of international humanitarian law.

He is a fourth-generation Naval Officer and currently serves as a Captain (O-6) in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has commanded five Navy Reserve units that focus on planning and operations - U.S. Forces Korea, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet, U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, and U.S. European Command J3 (Operations). Currently, he is the commanding officer of the Chief of Naval Operations, N3/N5 (Operations and Plans) unit that works out of the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon and monitors U.S. Navy operations worldwide. While on active duty from 1992 to 2003, he served as both a Surface Warfare Officer and Naval Flight Officer.

Agnieszka Raczynska

Agnieszka is a human rights specialist who has worked within the civil society in Mexico for more than 20 years. She received a Master's degree in Democracy and Human Rights in 2019 from FLACSO and a Bachelor degree in International Relations in 2014 from UNAM. Her work experience includes various positions in national and international human rights organizations, including the Executive Secretariat of the National Human Rights Network "All Rights for All" comprised of 70 pluralist, non-governmental groups from 23 Mexican states, all working in human rights education, defense and promotion. Agnieszka is currently working as a Consultant for the Migration Program at Fundacion Avina, supporting faith-based and pro-migrant organizations on the south and north borders of Mexico with migrant population, as well as refugees, asylum seekers, deportees, and temporary labor migrant workers.

Jonathan Robinson

Jonathan Robinson has lived in the Middle East since 2010, where he has predominantly focused on Syria and Iraq. He has held various roles including as an independent security adviser for Syria-focused humanitarian NGOs (accompanying one to Damascus in 2017), a threat and risk consultant for a private security company in Qatar, an Iraq analyst for a private security company in the UAE, an embedded analyst with the Iraqi Military in southern Iraq, a researcher focused on emerging Jihadi groups in Syria for a Middle East based 'think tank' as well as an assistant to the United Nations Security Advisor in Syria. Jonathan has provided analysis and assessments to a range of international entities such as the United Nations, humanitarian NGOs, development actors, peace-building entities, governmental bodies and international commercial companies,. He is currently working as a senior research consultant with the Carter Center's Syria Conflict Mapping Project. Jonathan holds a Master's degree in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Edinburgh and an undergraduate degree in Archaeology from the University of Durham. He also speaks and reads Arabic after

studying for one year at the Noor Majan Institute in Oman in 2015. He currently lives and works between Jordan, Lebanon and the U.S.

Dr. Carl Saab

Carl Saab is Professor, Department of Neuroscience and Department of Neurosurgery, Brown University, and Director of the Center for Pain and Neural Circuits at Rhode Island Hospital. He started his training in Neuroscience in 1995 as a master's student at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, studying the pain system, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale. At Brown, he pursued studies in neuro-immune signaling, and was later inspired by innovations in optogenetics and connectomics, which are now his major research focus (the relation between single units and rhythms, cell-specific interventions, ethologically relevant nociceptive behaviors, large scale neural data, and machine learning). These topics overlap perfectly with the BRAIN initiative, which awarded his lab a BRAIN award in 2018 titled "Spatiotemporal Coding in the Pain Circuit Along the Spine Brain Continuum" (co-PI's Borton, Jones). He also leads clinical research in collaboration with pain specialists and neurologists to develop pain classifier algorithms using EEG and machine learning.