

Sara Arjas

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EDUCATION

Duke University, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, Durham, NC May 2017

Bachelor of Arts in English, Minor: Chemistry, Certificate: Latino Studies Global South

- Cumulative GPA: 3.868; Dean's List with Distinction

SIT Study Abroad: Public Health in Urban Environments, Buenos Aires, Argentina Fall 2014

RELEVANT HEALTH EXPERIENCE

Narrative Medicine Program at Hospital Antonio Lorena, *Project Manager*, Cusco, Peru Summer 2016

- Independently designed and developed project to capture narratives of illness among pediatric in-patients and published a bilingual collection of their stories for hospital use and distribution
- Collaborated with community partner to implement weekly pediatric art therapies for in-patients in the early childhood development center

Grace Nursing Home and Hospice Center, *Volunteer*, Durham, NC Spring 2016 – Present

- Meet biweekly with residents one-on-one to provide support through socialization and engagement in group activities

Magee-Womens Research Institute Internship Program, Philadelphia, PA Summer 2015

- Shadowed Dr. Aleksandar Rajkovic, OB/GYN, to observe checkups and evaluations for patients with premature ovarian insufficiency

Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of Durham, *Writer*, Durham, NC Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

- Interviewed families with severely ill children and published narratives of their experiences for patients' families and for use by the RMH's informational materials for patients, families, donors, and community partners
- Learned about career paths and medical experiences through participating in weekly dinners with medical students and faculty who care for Duke Hospital pediatric patients

Improving the Biopsy Experience for Women Study (iBEST), Durham, NC Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

- Shadowed Dr. Mary Scott Soo, radiologist, to observe stereotactic core needle and ultrasound-guided breast biopsies
- Evaluated breast images with Dr. Soo to identify and classify carcinomas during weekly meetings

Launch into Education about Pharmacology (LEAP), Durham, NC Summer 2014

- Received funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to complete summer course Summer 2014
- Applied concepts of chemistry and biology to biomedical and behavioral models
- Presented research proposal on the effect of 5 α -reductase inhibition on neurosteroid biosynthesis to fellow participants and Duke faculty members in pharmacology and cancer biology

Know Your Status, *Certified HIV Counselor*, Durham, NC Fall 2013 – Present

- Provide free, confidential HIV testing via Oraquick method to over 100 residents in the Durham community
- Educate students about the risks of HIV infection and effective modes of prevention through on-campus events and social media campaigns

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Magee-Womens Research Institute College Internship Program, *Researcher*, Pittsburgh, PA Summer 2015

PI: Aleksandar Rajkovic, M.D., Ph.D., Magee-Womens Research Institute

- Investigated prevalence of minichromosome maintenance complex component 9 (MCM9) mutations in 109 women with idiopathic premature ovarian insufficiency (POI)
- Designed primers for exonic coding regions of the MCM9 gene, extracted subject DNA from blood, amplified target regions with PCR, sequenced PCR products, and identified and characterized mutations
- Contributed to peer-reviewed publication in the American Journal of Human Genetics and presented research at College Program Presentation Day

Improving the Biopsy Experience for Women Study (iBEST), *Clinical Researcher* Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

PI: Mary Scott Soo, M.D., Duke University Hospital Radiology and Oncology

- Recruited and randomized participants to compare doctor-patient dialogue, music and meditation as supportive measures during imaging-guided core-needle breast biopsy and cyst aspiration procedures
- Recorded vital signs, collected cortisol samples and administered surveys before and after procedures

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Duke University Peer Tutoring Center, *Organic Chemistry Tutor*, Durham, NC Fall 2013 – Present

- Promote mechanistic and conceptual understanding of organic chemistry during one-on-one sessions
- Collaborate with students to develop strong study habits according to individual needs

Temple Beth El Hebrew School, *Third Grade Teacher*, Durham, NC Fall 2013 – Present

- Create lesson plans to fulfill curriculum requirements and foster sense of community for 10 students
- Lead biweekly classes in Hebrew, prayer, holidays, and traditions

Visions Center on Blindness, *Senior Counselor*, Spring Valley, NY Summer 2013, 2014

- Provided support in dormitories for child and adult campers with blindness and other special needs and their families
- Designed and implemented recreational and rehabilitative activities to promote independence and personal growth
- Collaborated with administrators, co-counselors, children, and parents to provide individualized client support

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Duke University's Jewish Student Union (JSU) Fall 2013 – Present

Executive Board Programming Vice President

- Organize monthly religious, cultural, and social action programs for the Duke Jewish community

Gente Aprendiendo para Nuevas Oportunidades (GANO), *Volunteer* Fall 2013 – Present

- Meet biweekly with local Latino/a immigrants to serve as an English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor

- Design curriculums to promote functional literacy and English speaking skills
- Assist students with job and scholarship applications, insurance claims and financial statements

EXPOSURE TO DIVERSITY

Grace Nursing Home and Hospice Center, Volunteer, Durham, NC Spring 2016 – Present

- Interact with geriatric patients from a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds

SIT Study Abroad: Public Health in Urban Environments, Buenos Aires, Argentina Fall 2015

- Completed a 12-week language immersion and homestay program; built Spanish language proficiency, cross-cultural understanding and exposure, and communication skills
- Conducted weekly site visits to clinics, hospitals, and orphanages to better understand Argentina's health system
- Designed and conducted a field-based independent research project exploring rates of cesarean section in public and private health sectors, presented results to program director

Gente Aprendiendo para Nuevas Oportunidades (GANO), Volunteer Fall 2013 – Present

- Tutor local Latino immigrants from a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds in English language skills

ATHLETICS

Duke Women's Club Lacrosse, Team Captain Fall 2013 – Present

- Organize 8 hours of weekly practices and promote team unity for 24 players
- Oversee \$5,000 budget by allocating money and maintaining expense records for travel, facilities, and equipment
- Manage team travel and logistics for 5+ regional and national tournaments per semester
- Team received national ranking and competed in the 2015 Atlantic Coast Regionals qualifier

SKILLS

Languages: Spanish, *full professional proficiency*

PUBLICATIONS

Rajkovic, A., Gonzalez, F., Adkins, J. L. **Arjas, S.**, Bukowski, M., Wuest, S., Monteith, W., & McMahon, L. "MCM9 mutations associated with premature ovarian insufficiency." *The American Journal of Human Genetics*. v.101(2). (December 2015): 865-881.