

O. Monifa Sawyerr

Student Doctor Passionate about Equitable Healthcare
for Underserved Communities | Committed to
Culturally Competent Care | Dedicated to Mentoring
and Inspiring Underrepresented STEM and Medical
Students

☎ (209) 910-3564

✉ omsawyerr@ucdavis.edu

Education

MD Candidate

July 2021 – Present

University of California, Davis School of Medicine

Doctor of Medicine (Anticipated Graduation December 2025)

Bachelor of Science

June 2014 - June 2018

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics

Licenses and Certifications

Certified Phlebotomist Technician (CPT I)

California Department of Public Health (Active)

July 2023 – July 2025

Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers

America Heart Association (Active)

April 2023 – April 2025

Awards, Fellowships & Achievements

UC Davis APA Student Travel Award

February 2024

MacKenzie Foundation Scholar

October 2023 – Present

Jackie Robinson Foundation Extra Innings Fellow

September 2021 - Present

APA Foundation Ambassador & Scholar

March 2024 – Present

Horatio Alger Scholar

September 2014 - June 2022

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholar

June 2014 – May 2018

Professional Memberships

Student National Medical Association (SNMA)

California Medical Association (CMA)

Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC)

American Psychiatric Association (APA)

American Medical Association (AMA)

American College of Cardiology (ACC)

Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA)

The Association of Medicine and Psychiatry

Research Experience

January 2024 – February 2024

UC Davis Health - Department of Neurological Surgery, Sacramento, CA

- Collaborated with the neurosurgery department to research and write a case report on Cerebral Proliferative Angiopathy (CPA)
- Explored the option of surgical intervention for children with debilitating ischemic symptoms associated with CPA, highlighting the efficacy of indirect revascularization in promoting neovascularization and alleviating symptoms
- Contributed to literature review and background research on CPA, highlighting the significance of surgical intervention in pediatric cases through comprehensive analysis of clinical outcomes and existing literature

April 2023 – Present

UC Davis Health – Department of Emergency Medicine, Sacramento, CA

- Engaged in a quality improvement global health project focusing on pediatric intubations in Vietnam
- Collaborated with pediatric physicians in Vietnam to conduct pre and post-surveys assessing various aspects of intubation practices, including data collection on reasons for intubation, intubation methods utilized, medications administered, and success rate of intubating patients before and after bougie introduction
- Contributed to data entry, analysis, and writing a research paper based on project findings, addressing crucial clinical practices to enhance patient care and procedural efficiency in resource-limited settings, with the aim of improving patient outcomes

July 2022- Present

UC Davis Health - Department of Palliative Medicine, Sacramento, CA

- Conducted a comprehensive chart review within the Palliative Care Department, focusing on patients referred to the Supportive Medicine Clinic (SMC) for heart failure, and reviewed data from 240 visits involving 100 patients
- Evaluated the impact of SMC visits on patient care, analyzing changes in Code Status, Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) scores over time, patients' comprehension of their medical condition, and modifications in pharmacological management
- Contributed valuable insights to enhance patient care pathways within the Supportive Medicine Clinic and laid the groundwork for potential expansion to support a broader patient population beyond heart failure

May 2022- October 2022

Kaweah Health Medical Center - Department of Emergency Medicine, Visalia, CA

- Participated in a research endeavor to address the critical issue of foot care awareness among unhoused individuals residing in Visalia, CA
- Implemented a foot care education program tailored to the unique needs and challenges faced by the unhoused population, aiming to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to maintain proper foot health and prevent common foot ailments associated with homelessness
- Designed and conducted both pre- and post-survey assessments to evaluate the baseline understanding of foot care practices among participants and gauge the effectiveness of the intervention, measuring knowledge retention among participants
- Assisted in the project by collaborating on writing a paper focused on analyzing data and outcomes related to foot care among unhoused populations in Visalia, CA

August 2017- September 2018

UCLA Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics, Los Angeles, CA

- Collaborated as a student researcher in a laboratory, investigating the potential utilization of bacteriophage as biological therapy agents, and performed wet lab experiments on a bacteriophage to assess its efficacy in infecting *Mycobacterium smegmatis*
- Utilized bioinformatics tools and computational analysis software to elucidate the genetic composition of the bacteriophage, exploring the feasibility of genomic modifications for its potential use as a therapeutic agent

Publications

- Pierson C, **Sawyer O.M**, Watanabe R et al. Environmental and genetic analyses indicate potential use of temperate Mycobacteriophages OmegaMRC and SgtBeansprout as genetic vectors [version 1; not peer reviewed]. F1000Research 2019, 8:1010 (poster) (<https://doi.org/10.7490/f1000research.1116977.1>)
- **Sawyer, O.**, Wang, J., Watanabe, R., Wu, S., Chen, A., Kazane, K., . . . Parker, J. M. (2019). Genome Sequences of Cluster K Mycobacteriophages Deby, LaterM, LilPharaoh, Paola, SgtBeansprout, and Sulley. Microbiology Resource Announcements, 8(2). doi:10.1128/mra.01481-18
- Pierson C, **Sawyer O. Monifa**, Watanabe R, et al. Mycobacterium phage SgtBeansprout, complete genome. National Center for Biotechnology Information. [cited 2018 Aug 27]. In: NCBI [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Center for Biotechnology Information (US). [2018] - . Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/MH020245> PMID: MH020245

Work Experience

MESA Program

Teacher

July 2022 – August 2022

University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

- Developed engaging science lesson plans tailored to middle school and high school students, with a focus on hematology and cardiology
- Collaborated with fellow MESA teachers to devise innovative teaching methods and instructional materials, aligning with students' interests in math, engineering, and science
- Organized and spearheaded after-school activities aimed at fostering physical and mental development among students
- Fostered a collaborative learning environment by actively participating in the creation and implementation of interdisciplinary teaching strategies
- Monitored and assessed student progress, adapting instructional methods to address individual learning needs
- Cultivated a passion for science and mathematics through hands-on, experiential learning opportunities

Phlebotomist

May 2020 - May 2021

San Joaquin General Hospital, Stockton, CA

- Collaborated with patients and medical staff to efficiently collect and process COVID-19 tests, contributing to timely and accurate diagnostic outcomes
- Obtained and processed blood and bodily specimens from diverse patient populations, ensuring precision in routine blood work and diagnoses
- Executed a variety of medical laboratory tests on specimens, facilitating accurate diagnoses and treatment plans
- Recorded and meticulously entered test results, supporting clinical research studies with comprehensive and reliable data
- Played a crucial role in the delivery of blood products and assisted the mass transfusion team during trauma patient care, demonstrating adaptability in high-pressure situations
- Adhered to strict protocols and safety measures to ensure the integrity of specimens and the well-being of patients throughout the collection and processing procedures

Phlebotomist

May 2019 - March 2020

San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, San Gabriel Valley, CA

- Obtained blood samples proficiently and compassionately from diverse patient populations using venipuncture and capillary puncture techniques, ensuring accuracy in medical testing and transfusions
- Demonstrated meticulous attention to detail in the preparation of blood-collecting equipment, consistently following infection-control and safety procedures, thereby upholding the highest standards in phlebotomy practices
- Sustained a patient-focused approach, emphasizing clear communication and empathy throughout the phlebotomy process, fostering a positive and reassuring experience for individuals undergoing blood collection

Health Education and Outreach Intern
June 2019 - September 2019

Peer Advisor
September 2015-September 2018

Community Medical Centers, Stockton, CA

- Developed a manual delineating federal guidelines, practices, and requisites for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, showcasing a profound understanding of regulatory compliance and program intricacies
- Spearheaded the creation and implementation of a robust referral system and workflow for providers, significantly streamlining the process of linking patients to lactation specialists and services, thereby enhancing overall patient care
- Provided support services to patients through the Ryan White Program and Lactation Services Referral Program, demonstrating a commitment to improving health outcomes and ensuring seamless access to essential resources
- Engaged in shadowing opportunities within Women's Health, acquiring hands-on clinical experience, interacting directly with patients, participating in diagnostic processes, operating ultrasound machines, and observing various patient procedures, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of healthcare practices
- sought out learning opportunities actively to expand knowledge and skills, reinforcing a commitment to ongoing professional development in the healthcare sector

Financial Aid Advisor, UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships, Los Angeles, CA

- Provided confidential and expert counseling to over 900 undergraduate and graduate students, addressing financial aid inquiries and academic concerns seamlessly at the financial aid counseling desk and through telephonic communication, showcasing strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills
- Collaborated extensively with federal and state agencies to ensure verification of student citizenship, certification, and disbursement of student loans
- Applied a comprehensive understanding of FAFSA and Dream Act guidelines to allocate aid effectively, contributing to the efficient and accurate distribution of financial aid
- Played a key role in community outreach initiatives by delivering presentations to prospective students and their families, effectively communicating complex financial aid information and fostering positive connections with the student community
- Led engaging financial aid workshops and presentations, demonstrating a thorough grasp of the intricacies of FAFSA and Dream Act processes
- Conveyed complex information effectively to diverse audiences, enhancing financial literacy and empowering students to navigate the financial aid landscape with confidence

Institutional Service

Interviewer
August 2023 – Present

UC Davis School of Medicine Admissions, Sacramento, CA

- Conducted interviews for UC Davis School of Medicine applicants
- Evaluated candidates for academic excellence, community service, leadership, and cultural competence
- Contributed to shaping a diverse cohort of medical students, ensuring the representation of a broad spectrum of perspectives and experiences
- Deepened understanding of holistic qualities essential for medical professionals while playing a critical role in the selection process for future healthcare professionals

Ranking Subcommittee Member
May 2021 – Present

UC Davis School of Medicine Admissions, Sacramento, CA

- Meticulously assessed student applications for the UCDSOM admissions ranking committee
- Collaborated with fellow subcommittee members to conduct final reviews of applications, offer insightful recommendations, and cast final ranking votes
- Facilitated a thorough and equitable admissions process by proactively evaluating applicant files and championing candidates whose qualities shine beyond grades

Council Member
February 2022- Present

UC Davis School of Medicine - Diversity Advisory Council, Sacramento, CA

- Held a significant role as a student officer for the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), spearheading initiatives to champion diversity and inclusivity within UCDSOM
- Exercised leadership as a council member on the Diversity Advisory Council at UCDSOM, representing historically underrepresented student groups in medicine
- Proactively engaged in dynamic brainstorming sessions, strategic event planning, and influential policy discussions, shaping the academic landscape
- Demonstrated unwavering commitment to cultivating a safe and inclusive learning environment at UCDSOM for all students
- Advocated passionately for initiatives fostering diversity, equity, and inclusivity, amplifying the medical school's dedication to embracing diverse experiences and backgrounds within the academic community

Panelist and Presenter
February 2022

Stockton Health Education Conference (SHEC), Stockton, CA

- Participated as a medical student panelist for the medical student panel at the annual Stockton Health Education Conference
- Committed to fostering the next generation of healthcare professionals by sharing knowledge and experiences while providing firsthand insights into my medical journey and addressing questions from students
- Led an empowering workshop on "Growth Mindset," with a focus on nurturing resilience and motivating participants to embrace ongoing learning while actively pursuing opportunities for growth

Lead and Mentor
October 2021- October 2022

UC Davis School of Medicine Health Equity Academy, Sacramento, CA

- Developed specialized workshops in the Health Equity Academy, guiding high school students through pathways to college and medical school
- Served as a mentor, fostering an inclusive environment, equipping students with tools to navigate healthcare education and profession, and providing insights, guidance, and support to help them overcome challenging backgrounds and achieve their dreams
- Committed to fostering inclusivity by promoting diversity in healthcare, advocating for and supporting students from underrepresented backgrounds to create equitable opportunities for all

Admissions Ambassador
November 2021 – April 2022

UC Davis School of Medicine Admissions, Sacramento, CA

- Delivered an immersive and welcoming experience to interviewing students as an Admission Ambassador at the UC Davis School of Medicine
- Curated and presented insightful, medical student-led sessions offering an in-depth glimpse into life at UCDSOM
- Promoted inclusivity during presentations, emphasizing the rich tapestry of backgrounds and perspectives within the School of Medicine
- Actively engaged with prospective students as a trusted liaison and representative of the School of Medicine
- Provided valuable insights into educational enrichment opportunities available at UC Davis
- Contributed to shaping a positive and inclusive narrative for the School of Medicine, attracting diverse talent and nurturing a sense of belonging among prospective students

Extracurricular Activities

Volunteer
April 2024

Physicians Medical Forum – Doctors on Board Pipeline Program, Oakland, CA

- Volunteered for the Physicians Medical Forum's "Doctors On Board Pipeline Program," serving as a workshop leader for high school and pre-medical college students, facilitating sessions on suturing skills and surgical knot-tying
- Provided participants with hands-on experience and valuable insights into surgical techniques while actively engaging in speed mentoring sessions, offering guidance and support to students aspiring to be physicians

Volunteer

August 2023

- Uplifted students by affirming their belonging in the medical field and highlighting the presence of doctors of color, thereby fostering diversity and representation in medicine
- Strengthened and refined leadership and mentorship skills, affirming an unwavering dedication to advancing equitable educational opportunities

Food Literacy Center, Sacramento, CA

- Contributed time to the Food Literacy Center in Sacramento, CA, by actively preparing nutritious meal kits for underserved children, aiming to promote healthy eating habits
- Participated in cultivating the community garden at the Food Literacy Center and actively supported sustainable, community-driven initiatives aimed at promoting environmental stewardship and food security

Volunteer

September 2022 –
Present

Flu Crew, Sacramento, CA

- Enhanced community health by administering flu vaccinations to Sacramento community members, bolstering immunization efforts
- Orchestrated vaccination clinics to ensure accessibility and outreach to diverse demographics, fostering inclusive healthcare practices

Volunteer

July 2022 – March 2023

Imani Clinic, Sacramento, CA

- Demonstrated precise clinical skills through conducting comprehensive physical examinations and proficiently performing blood draws
- Displayed professionalism and empathy while addressing diverse women's health needs, fostering trust and rapport, and efficiently administering vaccinations to contribute to community health initiatives and disease prevention efforts
- Developed a nuanced understanding of holistic healthcare practices through hands-on experience, recognizing the significance of preventative measures in promoting community well-being and health equity

Student Mentor

July 2022 – April 2023,
April 2024 - Present

National SNMA Medical School Mentor Match, Washington, DC (Virtual)

- Delivered personalized monthly one-on-one mentorship sessions to underrepresented students, guiding them through the intricacies of the medical school application process
- Provided tailored comprehensive support, including interview preparation, secondary application revisions, and ongoing coaching throughout the entire application cycle, ensuring students excelled in their medical school application and interviews

Student Mentor

September 2022 – April
2023

UC Davis MAPS X UCDSOM SNMA Mentoring Program, Davis, CA

- Offered quarterly mentorship to undergraduate students at UC Davis, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, interested in healthcare careers, while fostering a supportive environment focused on the academic and professional growth of students
- Engaged with students to share valuable insights, provide guidance, and tailor personalized support sessions to match each student's aspirations in the healthcare field

Guest Speaker

June 2022

SSVMS Future of Medicine Summer Program, Sacramento, CA

- Served as a guest speaker to a group of high school students at the Future of Medicine Summer Program hosted by SSVMS
- Provided group mentoring, sharing insights into personal journey in pursuing a career in medicine, elaborating on prerequisites for medical school admission, and offering guidance on navigating challenges of high school and college

Volunteer

June 2022- July 2022,
September 2023

Street Medicine Mobile Clinic, Visalia, CA

- Played a role in delivering essential medical care to the unhoused population in Visalia, CA
- Demonstrated commitment to equitable healthcare access through conducting comprehensive health assessments, including physicals, blood pressure checks, and finger sticks
- Administered medications to patients under the supervision of a licensed physician, addressing both new and pre-existing medical conditions

Volunteer

March 2022 – January 2023

- Engaged in healthcare interventions to address immediate health needs, contributing to improving the overall well-being of the unhoused community and uninsured individuals in Visalia

Sacramento Food Bank, Sacramento, CA

- Volunteered at the food bank to package and distribute meals to families in need throughout Sacramento county
- Exhibited a commitment to community welfare by actively contributing to initiatives aimed at alleviating hunger and enhancing the well-being of vulnerable populations in the community

Co- President

January 2022 – February 2023

Student National Medical Association (SNMA) – UC Davis School of Medicine Chapter, Sacramento, CA

- Held a pivotal role as Co-President of the UC Davis SNMA chapter, overseeing strategic initiatives and fostering strong connections between the chapter and regional/national sectors of the association
- Represented student opinions, actively shaping the discourse and direction of SNMA initiatives on campus, driving impactful change
- Demonstrated leadership by orchestrating comprehensive event planning efforts, ensuring the successful execution of programs tailored to the diverse student body
- Played a crucial role in revitalizing the campus chapter post-pandemic, spearheading proactive measures to reignite engagement and cultivate a vibrant sense of community within the SNMA and across campus

Volunteer

September 2021

Vaccine Clinic, Sacramento, CA

- Participated in the COVID-19 vaccination initiative in the greater Sacramento area as a volunteer
- Enrolled community members into the vaccination database, ensuring accurate and efficient record-keeping
- Provided hands-on assistance administering COVID vaccines to individuals of all ages, contributing directly to the widespread effort to combat the pandemic and protect public health

Mentor

September 2021, January 2023

MiMentor, Sacramento, CA

- Provided comprehensive mentorship and specialized guidance to underrepresented students preparing for medical school interviews with MiMentor
- Offered tailored support and strategic advice to empower students in their interview preparations, ensuring they became more informed about interview techniques
- Demonstrated commitment to fostering the success of aspiring medical professionals and making a meaningful impact on their journey towards a career in medicine