

Meet the 2024 Scholarship Recipients

The PHO Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the recipients of the 2024 PHO Scholarship Awards Program. Now in its sixth year, this competitive program drew applications from early-career clinicians and researchers from around the world. Scholarships are funded by generous donations from members and others to the PHO Scholarship Fund and the PHO Mission Fund.



Kakha Bregvadze, MD is a PhD student at Tbilisi State Medical University, in Tbilisi, Georgia. As a PhD candidate in dermatology research, Kakha is focusing on health-related quality of life in Georgian patients with rare genetic diseases using PROMIS.



Rachel Chambers, BSc, MSc is an international PhD training fellow at Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, in the UK. With interests in palliative care, Rachel has recently completed a systematic review of the psychometric properties of relevant patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) for young adults living with life-limiting conditions.



Ellie Choi, MBBS, MRCF is a dermatologist and PhD student at the National University Hospital in Singapore and also pursuing an MBA at Johns Hopkins. Ellie's research examines the discordance between patient and physician perspectives and will test a psycho-behavioural digital tool in dermatological patients and validate PROMIS Global 10 in Singapore patients.



Meryeme El Balqui, MSc is a graduate student in biostatistics at Laval University, in Quebec, Canada. Working as part of a large project to personalize prenatal screening through genomics, Meryeme used PROMIS to assess the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) of pregnant women to better understand the impact of prenatal screening methods on pregnant women's health, providing critical insights for clinical practice and future research.



Paul Hartman, DPT is a PhD student at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah USA, who is interested in improving the systematic delivery and implementation of evidence-based practices in orthopaedic physical therapy. Paul has helped develop a clinician-facing dashboard that uses PROMIS measures to track outcomes for quality improvement initiatives.



Jiseon Lee, MA is a PhD student at Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University, in Seoul, Korea. As part of the Korean PROMIS National Center, Jiseon is developing the Korean version of the PROMIS Stigma scale and is establishing a prospective cohort of pediatric epilepsy patients and caregivers. A Korean reference set will be created, and results will be compared between national surveys in Korea, the US, and the Netherlands.



Eszter Rózsa Leskó is a fourth year dental student at Semmelweis Univ. School of Dentistry in Budapest, Hungary, specializing in oral surgery. Eszter is using PROMIS to investigate how QOL is impacted by oral cancer surgery, and how PROMs can improve treatment efficacy and patient well-being in oral cancer management programs.



Katherine Melton, PhD, RN is a research fellow at Boston Children's Hospital, in Boston, MA USA with interest in patient-centered outcomes research from the intersection of two professional identities: nurse and scientist. Katherine's uses the PROMIS Pediatric Peer Relationships scale to study peer relationships and self-management behaviors among adolescents with chronic illness.



Hari Sharma, BS is a medical student pursuing a joint MD MBA degree at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School in Worcester, MA USA. Hari has applied PROMIS to assess the implementation of value-based care via an orthopedic integrated practice unit; to evaluate the impact of a patient communication app on patient outcomes; and to examine resilience in older women post-hip fracture.



Maud van Muilekom is a post-doctoral fellow at Amsterdam University Medical Centers in the Netherlands focusing on the implementation of PROMs and PROMIS in clinical care. As part of the Dutch-Flemish PROMIS National Center, Maud is advising PROMIS users, formatting new measures, and ensuring the quality control of PROMIS measures in data administration platforms.



Anne Westerweel is a PhD student with the Pediatric Oncology PROMIS team at Princess Máxima Center in Utrecht and the Amsterdam University Medical Centers in the Netherlands. Anne is helping implement PROMIS at the Princess Máxima Center, validating and gathering normative data for parent-proxy measures, examining the validity of PROMIS in pediatric oncology, implementing PROMIS in care, and developing crosswalks with legacy instruments.