

CLAIRE ARDELL PERNAT, MPhil

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EDUCATION

- Boston University, School of Public Health**, Boston, Massachusetts, USA Expected May 2027
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Services and Policy Research Student, Specialization in Implementation and Evaluation
Dissertation: *Improving HPV Vaccination and Cervical Cancer Screening in Muslim Women through Belief-Informed Health Communication*
- University of Bergen**, Bergen, Vestland, Norway June 2023
Master of Philosophy in Global Development, Specialization in Health Promotion
Thesis: *Applying the socioecological model to illuminate nuance in collaborative functioning: Trust and overcoming SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy in the Somali communities in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, USA and Bergen, Vestland, Norway*
- Tufts University**, Medford, Massachusetts, USA May 2020
Bachelor of Arts in Community Health, *Summa Cum Laude*, Highest Honors in Thesis, Phi Beta Kappa
Honors Thesis: *The influence of community-level gender inequality on the bariatric surgery gender gap*
- Danish Institute of Study Abroad (DIS)**, Copenhagen, Denmark August 2018 – December 2018

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Boston University, School of Public Health, Department of Health Law, Policy and Management** Boston, Massachusetts, USA
PhD Dissertation Candidate; Advisors: Tim Callaghan, PhD, Matt Motta, PhD, Jennifer Ross, PhD, and Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba August 2025-Present
- Designed a three-part multi-methods dissertation examining HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening among Muslim women in Greater Boston to develop culturally responsive health communication strategies.
 - Submitted an NIH/National Cancer Institute F31 fellowship application to support the research.
 - Created an original English-language survey, coordinated Somali and Arabic translations, and programmed and administered the survey in Qualtrics and REDCap.
 - Led community-based recruitment across Greater Boston and supervised 11 research assistants, resulting in 566 completed surveys (one of the largest US samples of Muslim women focused on HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening); currently analyzing findings and developing survey-informed focus group guides.
- PhD Student Researcher, The Politics and Health Lab; September 2024-May 2026
Advisors: Tim Callaghan, PhD and Christine Blackburn, PhD (Texas A&M)
- Developed two manuscripts, including a published peer-reviewed study on EMS workforce mental health during the US migrant crisis and a first-author analysis of US nationally representative survey data on public attitudes toward immigrant healthcare access and hospital-based immigration enforcement.
 - Led quantitative analysis in STATA of a US nationally representative survey to assess public attitudes toward immigrant access to healthcare and federal immigration enforcement in sanctuary hospitals; results provide insight into policy-relevant barriers to care.
 - Conducted thematic analysis and supported manuscript development for a mixed-methods study exploring the mental health consequences of the U.S. migrant crisis on EMS personnel, emphasizing workforce resilience and systemic barriers
- PhD Student Researcher, The Politics and Health Lab; Advisor: Matt Motta, PhD December 2023-Present
- Writing first-author manuscript about public perceptions of mRNA versus traditional vaccine platforms.
 - Led quantitative analysis in STATA of a national US survey comparing public perceptions of mRNA, inactivated, and live-attenuated vaccines, specifically investigating differences in perceived safety, effectiveness, and trust
 - Performed multivariable regression modeling in STATA to identify predictors of one-time COVID-19 vaccination, assess the role of personal health risk perceptions, and evaluate the effectiveness of a communication intervention on future booster uptake.
 - Presented findings in oral and poster formats on nativity-based differences in COVID-19 and influenza vaccination uptake and correlates of one-time COVID-19 vaccination.
 - Authored a section of a US national survey designed to examine COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, particularly assessing the impact of vaccine mandates on individuals' initial vaccination decisions

University of Bergen, Department of Psychology

Masters Thesis Candidate, Institute for Health, Environment, and Equality;

Advisor: J. Hope Corbin, PhD

Bergen, Vestland, Norway

December 2022-June 2023

- Executed a 6-month independent research project on community actions and initiatives related to SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy in the Somali communities in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, USA and Bergen, Norway
- Conducted in-depth, semi-structured interviews in English and Norwegian with key informants in the Somali community members in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Bergen
- Coded transcribed interviews in NVivo and applied thematic analysis to understand the interview data
- Wrote and successfully defended a 50-page master's thesis; subsequently published findings as first author in Health Promotion Practice, translating thesis research into peer-reviewed scholarship.

NORCE (Norwegian Research Centre), Welfare, Labour, and Health Department Bergen, Vestland, Norway

Research Assistant, Work Life and Inclusion Research Group;

September 2022-December 2022

Advisor: Tonje Fyhn, PhD

- Developed a follow-up survey to evaluate the long-term effect of an individual placement support (IPS) intervention on work participation, inclusion, and active citizenship for immigrants 5 years post-intervention
- Analyzed the well-being of students in Tromsø, Norway before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic

Askøy Kommune

Askøy, Vestland, Norway

Consultant, Immigration and Integration: VARiG-prosjektet;

January 2022-May 2022

Advisor: Ann Cathrin Corrales-Øverlid

- Evaluated international refugee integration projects for Askøy Kommune, focusing on employment, language acquisition, and holistic approaches, as part of the VARiG-project review
- Co-authored a commissioned policy report for Askøy Kommune evaluating international refugee integration models to inform municipal decision-making and future program development.

Massachusetts General Hospital, Cancer Center

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Project Coordinator, Center for Thoracic Cancers;

April 2020-October 2021

Advisors: Justin Gainor, MD and Vivek Naranbhai, MD, PhD, DPhil

- Managed the CANVAX: Cancer, COVID, and Vaccination study by operationalizing standard operating procedures and a workflow for the most efficient patient enrollment across the 6 disease groups, data collection, and data output/analysis and supervising 10 clinical research coordinators who recruited patients
- Orchestrated stakeholder meetings and proposed protocol changes for a multi-site study comparing the effectiveness of early integrated telehealth versus in-person palliative care for advanced lung cancer patients

Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Surgery

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Undergraduate Intern, Codman Center for Clinical Effectiveness in Surgery;

January 2019 – May 2020

Advisor: David C. Chang, PhD, MPH, MBA

- Analyzed the patient racial diversity of divisions in the Department of Surgery using STATA and presented novel findings at the Department's Diversity Committee Meeting and at the Academic Surgical Congress
- Collaborated with the Transplant Outcomes Research Team and conducted disparities research on access to kidney transplantation compared to access to dialysis within MGH in comparison to the rest of the USA

Tufts University, Department of Community Health

Medford, Massachusetts, USA

Senior Honors Thesis Candidate, Department of Community Health;

September 2019-May 2020

Advisors: Andrea Acevedo, PhD and Shalini Tendulkar, ScD

- Conducted a 9-month independent research project examining the bariatric surgery gender gap variation based on quantifying county-level gender inequality using measures defined by the United Nations and merging 8 datasets.
- Performed statistical analyses in STATA and analyzed the association of county-level gender inequality and gender differences in bariatric surgery.
- Wrote a 73-page thesis and orally defended the thesis in May 2020.

Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions

Charlestown, Massachusetts, USA

Undergraduate Intern, Brain Recovery Lab; Advisor: Teresa Kimberley, PhD, PT

May 2018 – August 2018

- Assisted in the recruitment of participants and the running of baseline screenings to study the effect of cerebellar transcranial direct current stimulation on cervical dystonia.

University of Minnesota, Medical School
Undergraduate Intern, Program in Health Disparities Research;
Advisor: Rebekah Pratt, PhD

Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
May 2017 – August 2017

- Recruited participants who were experiencing homelessness and interested in smoking and alcohol cessation.
- Conducted qualitative coding and thematic analysis of interviews examining how social and physical environments shape smoking and alcohol cessation among individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Co-authored a peer-reviewed publication in *BMC Public Health* (2019) and presented findings at the University of Minnesota Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium (2017).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. **Pernat, C.A.**, Callaghan, T., Motta, M., Say mRNA or Not? Effects of mRNA Vaccine Labeling on Public Acceptance of a Combined Influenza-COVID-19 Shot in the United States. Expected submission Summer/Fall 2026.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

1. **Pernat, C.A.**, Rico, M., Franklin, K., Crudo Blackburn, C., (2026) Framing, Partisanship, and Race Shape American Public Opinion Regarding Immigration Status Reporting in U.S. Hospitals. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. Online ahead of print. DOI: 10.1007/s10903-026-01911-1. PMID: 41995972.
2. Ettinger de Cuba, S., Ruemmele, C., **Pernat, C.**, Osypuk, T. L. (2026). "Social Policy Choices, Women, and Health". In: Troisi R, Goldman MB, Cozier YC, Rexrode KM (eds), *Women and Health*, Third Edition, vols 1-3. Academic Press (Elsevier). Set ISBN 9780443458637.
3. Crudo Blackburn, C., **Pernat, C.A.**, Rico, M., Knight, L., Sebesta, B. (2026) Examining the Impacts of Migration on the Mental Health of EMS Clinicians in a Southwestern U.S. State. *Prehospital Emergency Management*. 30(1), 104-110. DOI: 10.1080/10903127.2025.2483355. PMID: 40126384.
4. **Pernat, C.A.**, Pratt, R., Ottemöller, F.G., Corbin, H.J. (2025). Critical insights into the intricate nature of public health interventions: Partnership, cultural and racial tensions, and vaccine hesitancy within Somali communities in the Upper Midwest, USA and Western Norway. *Health Promotion Practice*. 26(6), 1126-1141. DOI: 10.1177/15248399241308547. PMID: 39773222.
5. Naranbhai, V., St. Denis, K.J., Lam, E.C., Ofoman, O., Garcia-Beltran, W.F., Berrios-Mairena, C.J., Bhan, A.K., Gainor, J.F., Balazs, A.B., Iafrate, A.J., on behalf of the **CANVAX team**. (2022). Neutralization breadth of SARS-CoV-2 viral variants following primary series and booster SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in patients with cancer. *Cancer Cell*. 40(1), 103-108.e2. DOI: 10.1016/j.ccell.2021.12.002. PMID: 34990570.
6. **Pernat, C.A.**, Cannemeijer, V., Jahan Shorna, N., Zimmerman, J., Yeboaj Asiamah, A. (2022). Evaluating VARiG-Prosjektet: A Review of International Refugee Integration Projects Through the Lens of Employment, Language, and a Holistic Approach. Report Commissioned by Askøy Kommune.
7. Naranbhai, V., **Pernat, C.A.**, Gavralidis, A., St. Denis, K.J., Lam, E.C., Spring, L.M., Isakoff, S.J., Farmer, J.R., Lubiri, L., Hobbs, G.S., How, J., Brunner, A.M., Fathi, A.T., Peterson, J.L., Sakhi, M., Hamblen, G., Denault, E.N., Mortensen, L.J., Perriello, L.A., Bruno, M.N., Bertaux, B.Y., Lawless, A.R., Jackson, M.A., Niehoff, E., Barabell, C., Nambu, C.N., Nakajima, E., Reinicke, T., Bowes, C., Berrios-Mairena, C.J., Ofoman, O., Kirkpatrick, G.E., Thierauf, J.C., Reynolds, K., Willers, H., Beltran, W.G., Dighe, A.S., Saff, R., Blumenthal, K., Sullivan, R.J., Chen, Y.B., Kim, A., Bardia, A., Balazs, A.B., Iafrate, A.J., Gainor, J.F. (2022). Immunogenicity and Reactogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines in Patients With Cancer: The CANVAX Cohort Study. *J Clin Oncol*. 40(1): 12-23. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.21.01891. PMID: 34752147.
8. Perez, N., **Pernat, C. A.**, Chang, D. C. (2020). Chapter 5: Surgical Disparities: Beyond Non-Modifiable Patient Factors, In: Dimick, J., Lubitz, C. (eds) *Health Services Research: Success in Academic Surgery*, 2nd edition. Springer, Cham. 57-69.
9. Pratt, R., **Pernat, C.A.**, Kerandi, L., Kmiecik, A., Strobel-Ayres, C., Joseph, A., Everson-Rose, S., Luo, X., Cooney, N., Thomas, J., Okuyemi, K., (2019). 'It's a hard thing to manage when you're homeless': the impact of the social environment on smoking cessation for smokers experiencing homelessness," *BMC Public Health*. 19(1):635. DOI: 10.1186/s12889-019-6987-7. PMID: 31126265.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

International Health Policy Scholarship Recipient , AcademyHealth and The Commonwealth Fund	May 2026
Pre-Doctoral Ignition Award , ideahub at Boston University School of Public Health	April 2026 – April 2027
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) T32 Research Training Grant, U.S. National Institutes of Health	September 2023 – August 2025
Selected Student Speaker , AcademyHealth Women and Gender Health Interest Group	June 2025
WINGS Program for BOLD Alumni Grant , Tufts University	March 2025
Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation Grant , Individual Grant to Study Arabic	June 2024
Alternate , Fulbright Research Grant Norway, U.S. State Department	April 2021
Seymour S. Bellin Research Award , Tufts University	May 2020
Phi Beta Kappa , Delta Chapter of Massachusetts, Tufts University	April 2020
Dean's Lists , Tufts University	Fall 2016-Spring 2017, Spring 2018-Spring 2019

PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Pernat, C.A.**, Callaghan, T.H., Motta, M., “OK with mRNA?” Public Attitudes Toward mRNA Vs. Non-mRNA Vaccines. Poster presentation delivered at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA. May 2026.
 2. **Pernat, C.A.**, Callaghan, T.H., Motta, M., “Say mRNA or Not?” Oral Presentation at HLPN Quant Methods Seminar. Boston University. October 2025
 3. **Pernat, C.A.**, Motta, M., Foreign-Born Disparities in Cervical Cancer Screening: How Education and Insurance Shape Utilization. Oral presentation delivered at The Migration Conference. London, United Kingdom. June 2025.
 4. **Pernat, C.A.**, Motta, M., Understanding Vaccination Gaps: A Nativity-Based Analysis of COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Uptake in the United States. Oral presentation delivered at The Migration Conference. London, United Kingdom. June 2025.
 5. **Pernat, C.A.**, Motta, M., Public Attitudes Toward Publicly Funded Health Care Access for Non-Citizens: A Cross-National Analysis. Oral presentation delivered at The Migration Conference. London, United Kingdom. June 2025.
 6. **Pernat, C.A.**, Motta, M., Understanding Vaccination Gaps: A Nativity-Based Analysis of COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Uptake in the United States. Poster presentation delivered at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. June 2025.
 7. **Pernat, C.A.**, Motta, M., Foreign-Born Disparities in Cervical Cancer Screening: How Education and Insurance Shape Utilization. Oral presentation delivered at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. June 2025.
 8. **Pernat, C.A.**, Corbin, H.J., Migrant Health and Vaccine Trust: Lessons from Somali Communities in Norway and the United States. Poster presentation delivered at the 14th Nordic Public Health Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden. May 2025.
 9. **Pernat, C.A.**, Motta, M., Correlates of One-Time COVID-19 Vaccination: Mandates, Politics, Health Concerns, and Beliefs. Podium presentation delivered at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland. July 2024.
 10. **Pernat, C.A.**, Corbin, H.J., Overcoming Barriers to Vaccination: Trust-Building Strategies Among Somali Migrants in the United States and Norway. Podium presentation delivered at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland. June 2024.
 11. **Pernat, C.A.**, Corbin, H.J., Overcoming Barriers to Vaccination: Trust-Building Strategies Among Somali Migrants in the United States and Norway. Poster presentation delivered at the Geneva Health Forum, Geneva, Switzerland. May 2024.
 12. **Pernat, C.A.**, Acevedo, A., Chang, D.C., The Influence of Gender Inequality on Gender Mix in Bariatric Surgery. Oral presentation delivered virtually at the Academic Surgical Congress meeting, Houston, Texas, February 2021.
 13. **Pernat, C.A.**, Tendulkar, S., Chang, D.C., Acevedo, A., The influence of county-level gender inequality on gender difference in bariatric surgery. Oral presentation delivered virtually at the Tufts University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium, Medford, MA, May 2020.

14. Del Carmen, G.A., **Pernat, C.A.**, Chang, D.C., How Do Competing Ethical Obligations Inform Clinical Decision-Making? Oral presentation delivered at the Academic Surgical Congress meeting, Orlando, Florida, February 2020.
15. **Pernat, C.A.**, De Crescenzo, C., Hsu, Y., Chen, Oseni, T. O., Chang, D. C., Yeh, H., Comparative dashboard as a framework for tracking racial diversity and access barriers. Oral presentation delivered at the Academic Surgical Congress meeting, Orlando, Florida, February 2020.
16. **Pernat, C.A.**, Thomas, J., Joseph, A., Everson-Rose, S., Cooney, N., Specker, S., Luo, X., Okuyemi, K., Pratt, R., Reflections from Homeless Participants on the Impact of the Social and Physical Environment on Smoking and Alcohol Cessation in the Power to Quit II Study. Poster presentation delivered at the University of Minnesota Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium, Minneapolis, MN, August 2017.

INVITED TALKS

- Panelist, Community Health Alumni Mentoring Program (CHAMP) Breakfast, Tufts University, Department of Community Health, Medford, MA, USA, November 7, 2026.
- Guest Speaker, “Trust and Overcoming SARSCoV-2 Vaccine Hesitancy in the Somali Communities in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN, USA and Bergen, Vestland, Norway,” Boston University School of Public Health course PM 834 Planning and Regulating to Fix Health Care, Boston, MA, USA, February 29, 2024.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- Teaching Assistant, *Foundations of Health Promotion*, University of Bergen (November 2022 – December 2022)
- Mentoring one Tufts undergraduate through Tufts’ Community Health Alumni Mentoring Program (October 2022 – May 2023)
- Mentoring two Tufts undergraduates through Kappa Alpha Theta’s Peer Mentoring Program (January 2019 – May 2020)
- Mentoring one Tufts undergraduate through Tufts’ Community Health Alumni Mentoring Program (October 2024 – May 2025)
- Mentoring one Northeastern undergraduate student working as a research assistant on my dissertation (January 2026 – Present)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

AcademyHealth , Global Health and Health Care Interest Group Advisory Committee	
Member-at-Large	July 2024 – June 2025
Communications Liaison	July 2025 – Present

SKILLS

Software & Tools: STATA, NVivo, SPSS, MatLab, RStudio, REDCap, Qualtrics Microsoft Office, Google Applications

Transferable Skills: Quantitative and qualitative research methods, interdisciplinary teamwork, independent work, problem-solving, implementation and evaluation, stakeholder analysis, policy analysis, knowledge of SDGs and their interactions, report-writing, log-frames, giving and receiving feedback

Language: English (Native), Norwegian Bokmål (Intermediate/B1), Latin (Intermediate/B1), French (Novice/A2), Arabic (Novice/A2)

Marketing: Public Speaking, Presentation Creation, Event Planning, Social Media, Web Design, Graphic Design

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

AcademyHealth Student Chapter , Boston University, School of Public Health	Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Co-President	May 2025 – Present

- Organized and moderated a professional development event on translating health services research findings into public messaging, covering media engagement, social media strategy, and building broader community impact.
- Coordinated and presented at an AcademyHealth ARM preparation session, mentoring master’s and doctoral students on abstract writing, submission strategy, and conference participation.

University of Bergen

Student Representative, Global Development Theory and Practice

Bergen, Vestland, Norway

August 2021 – June 2023

- Served on the Institute for Health, Environment, and Equality's (HEMIL) teaching committee
- Assisted in the development of a new curriculum to better serve the Global Development masters program

Tufts University's Project SHARE/Sharewood Project

Medford, Massachusetts, USA

President

January 2019 – December 2019

- Oversaw and coordinated Fundraising, Public Health, and Health Communications committees and collaborated directly with the Head Clinic Coordinators, Medical School Board, Tufts Medical School Deans, and the Tufts University Office of College Life to run The Sharewood Project

Vice President

January 2018 – December 2018

- Managed the running of The Sharewood Project by collaborating with the Medical School Board, coordinating undergraduate and medical student volunteers, and admitting patients

Public Health Coordinator

January 2017 – December 2017

- Established clinic programs to address food insecurity and to provide patients with food resources

FIRST Robotics Competition

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Mentor, Team 125, NUTRONS

September 2017 – August 2019

- Organized a group of students and created a national mental health awareness initiative, Hear For You, and expanded the mental health awareness to an international level through proposals to FIRST Headquarters

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- AcademyHealth
- Phi Beta Kappa

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Research Security Training (Combined) , Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program Research Training (Current)	2025
Mentor Academy , three-hour training on standardized CIMER mentor curricula, <i>Emerging Women Leaders</i> , Boston University School of Public Health	2025
Undue Foreign Influence: Risks and Mitigations , CITI Program Research Training (Current)	2024
Boston University Medical Center Standard Operating Procedures , CITI Program Research (Current)	2024
Social and Behavioral Research , Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program Research (Current)	2024
Boston University Medical Center HIPAA and Research Data Security , CITI Program Research (Current)	2023
Biomedical Research , CITI Program Research (Current)	2018
Good Clinical Practice , CITI Program Research Training (Current)	2017
Social and Behavioral Research , CITI Program Research Training (Current)	2017
Emergency Medical Technician , State of Massachusetts	2016
Emergency Medical Technician , State of Minnesota	2016