

2025 INTRAMURAL EMORY

GLOBAL HEALTH CASE COMPETITION

Longing for Belonging:
Addressing the Loneliness Epidemic in the United States



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Emory Global Health Institute

AGENDA

Claudia Nance Rollins (CNR) Building

“Loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling—it harms both individual and societal health.

And the harmful consequences of a society that lacks social connection can be felt in our schools, workplaces, and civic organizations, where performance, productivity, and engagement are diminished.”

Dr. Vivek H. Murthy
19th and 21st Surgeon General of the United States

Saturday, February 1, 2025

7:30 AM

Breakfast & Team Check-In

CNR Lobby

8:45 AM

Welcome & Opening

CNR Auditorium

9:00 AM

Presentations: Round 1

CNR Stream Rooms

10:45 AM

Judges Deliberations & Refreshments

CNR Lobby

11:45 AM

Announcement of Finalists

CNR Auditorium

12:00 PM

Feedback & Case Twist

CNR Stream Rooms

1:15 PM

Final Presentations

CNR Auditorium

2:30 - 3:15 PM

Reception & Announcement of Winners

Klamon Room, 8th Floor

8:00 AM

Judges' Briefing

Welcome to Emory Global Health Institute's 17th Intramural Emory Global Health Case Competition.

Globally, loneliness among different age groups is a growing concern. Despite cultural and structural differences, many nations grapple with similar challenges in addressing loneliness and its associated health impacts. This shared crisis presents a unique opportunity for international collaboration and learning. The call to action is clear: coordinated, evidence-based solutions are urgently needed to address this growing public health threat and mitigate its adverse impacts on individuals, communities, and healthcare systems.

We wish all students participating in this challenge a meaningful experience and thank our judges, case advisors, volunteers, and sponsors.

2:30 PM

Judges' Deliberations

TEAMS

Intramural Emory Student Teams

* Team Captain

TEAM 1

Tejaswini Agarwal
Rollins School of Public Health

Valentina Larrivey*
School of Medicine

Oliver Hegyi
Oxford College

Hashim Chaudhry
Oxford College

Jonas Pfefferman
Oxford College

Saketh Sankara
Rollins School of Public Health

TEAM 2

Lyvannak Sam
Rollins School of Public Health

Chadwick Medeiros
Rollins School of Public Health

Tasmiah Tahera Aziz*
Rollins School of Public Health

Dauphine Ayebale
Rollins School of Public Health

Tracy He
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Jocelyn Nguyen
Goizueta Business School

TEAM 3

Alexis Ziller*
Rollins School of Public Health

Gabi Olmedo
Rollins School of Public Health

Tran Nguyen
Rollins School of Public Health

Maya Jackson
Rollins School of Public Health

Jenna Gevertz
Goizueta Business School

Melissa Irek
Rollins School of Public Health & School of Medicine

TEAM 4

Selina Kao
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Briella Lucadamo
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Ted Zhang*
Goizueta Business School

Raghav Agarwalla
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Addison Deisher
Rollins School of Public Health

Samhitha Dasari
Rollins School of Public Health

TEAM 5

Sarah Timbie*
Rollins School of Public Health

Jade Bondy
Rollins School of Public Health

Gabrielle Gershon
School of Medicine

Sofie Jubelirer
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Pooja Sanghvi
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Jillian Wu
Goizueta Business School

Thank You to Our Case Advisors!

Benn R. Konsynski, PhD

Helen Baker, PhD, MSc, FNP-BC

Jessica Ham, PhD, MA

Sara Harlan Zegeye, MDP

Anna Quay-Yaffee, MD, MPH

Amel Omari, PhD, MPH

Carla Roncoli, PhD

Carol Rubin, DVM, MPH

Amandine Zoonekyndt-Ballart, MPH

TEAM 7

Vikram Varadarajan*
School of Medicine

Abhinav Vaidyanathan
Rollins School of Public Health

Lin Yeh
Goizueta Business School

SJ Ahn
Goizueta Business School

Andrew Conlon
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Helen Ejigu
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

TEAM 8

Anvita Guttikonda
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Clara Cai
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Avery Uffelmann
Oxford College

Tianran Wang
Rollins School of Public Health

Meher Jain
Goizueta Business School

Ana Camila Huber*
Rollins School of Public Health



TEAM 9

Danielle Merken*
Laney Graduate School

Viraj Shivadevuni
Oxford College

Vikram Srinivasan
Oxford College

Karina Collins
Rollins School of Public Health

Maedot Admassu
Rollins School of Public Health

Sanika Mithbaokar
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

TEAM 10

Haley Cionfolo*
Rollins School of Public Health

Neha Mokashi
Rollins School of Public Health

Elisabeth Vogel
Rollins School of Public Health

Madeline Chandler
Candler School of Theology & Rollins School of Public Health

Lily Freeman
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Jenna Feeley
Laney Graduate School

TEAM 11

Epherata Zeleke
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Roshni Desai
Rollins School of Public Health

Joseph Ali
Rollins School of Public Health

Roaa Kordeir*
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

Phuong Vu
James T. Laney School of Graduate School

Endia James
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

TEAM 12

Ayana Isobe*
Rollins School of Public Health

Timothy Odonga
Laney Graduate School

Olanike Azeez
Rollins School of Public Health

Merrve Ecan Celenk
Rollins School of Public Health

Mai Terashima
Goizueta Business School

Nashra Khan
Emory College of Arts & Sciences

JUDGES

2025 Case Competition



Parul Parikh, JD, MPH

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

PARUL PARIKH is the Acting Associate Director for Policy in the Division of Overdose Prevention at the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. She has been with CDC since 2015. Before coming to CDC, Parul was an Equal Opportunity Specialist with the HHS Office for Civil Rights, where she worked on civil rights compliance and health information privacy cases to support equitable access to health care. Parul earned her JD from Emory University and her MPH from Georgia State University.

CHIKAKO OZAWA-DE SILVA is a Professor of Japanese Studies and Anthropology at Emory University. She is a National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient and a Mind and Life Contemplative Studies Fellowship recipient. Her academic vision is to contribute to cross-cultural understandings of health, illness and well-being by bringing Western and Asian perspectives on the mind-body, religion, medicine, and therapy into fruitful dialogue. For the past ten years her research has focused on loneliness, empathy, meaning-making, subjectivity, contemplative practice, and resilience in Japan and the U.S.



**Chikako Ozawa-de Silva,
DPhil**

Emory University



Katherine V. Bruss, PsyD

Clinical Consultant

KATHERINE V. BRUSS is a licensed clinical psychologist and consultant who earned her doctoral degree from Baylor University and certificate in Global Mental Health Refugee Trauma at Harvard University and Istituto Superiore di Sanità. During her 30-year career, she has focused on promoting health and wellness initiatives and programs across the federal government, major universities, and non-profit organizations. At U.S. CDC, Dr. Bruss provided subject matter expertise in mental and social health and emotional well-being, regularly collaborating with leading researchers in loneliness and social isolation. She received an Excellence in Leadership Award as well as other recognitions during her tenure at CDC. She contributed to the development of the Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Connection and on measures of social connection for inclusion in national surveys.



Hansa Bhargava, MD
Emory University

HANSA BHARGAVA is a board-certified physician in pediatric medicine. After undertaking Cognitively Based Compassion Training at Emory, she began facilitating workshops for healthcare students and physicians on compassion, resiliency, and burnout prevention. She penned *Building Happier Kids: Stress-Busting Tools for Parents* to provide actionable tools to support children’s mental health. She then transitioned to Medscape, as chief medical officer. Hansa has held leadership roles with the American Academy of Pediatrics, is on the advisory board for Christopher Wolf Crusade, an advisor for MI 10, and a member of the Digital Therapeutics Alliance. Hansa earned her medical degree from the University of Toronto and completed her residency at Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children.

LUAY SAMI began his career with the Ministry of Culture in Baghdad, where he represented Iraq on the global stage. Now serving as Executive Director at the Clarkston Community Center, Sami plays a key role in promoting inclusivity and vibrancy within the center. As a principal advisor to the Board, he helps shape organizational goals and leads the executive team in building connections across diverse communities through engaging programs.



Luay Sami, BA
Clarkston Community Center



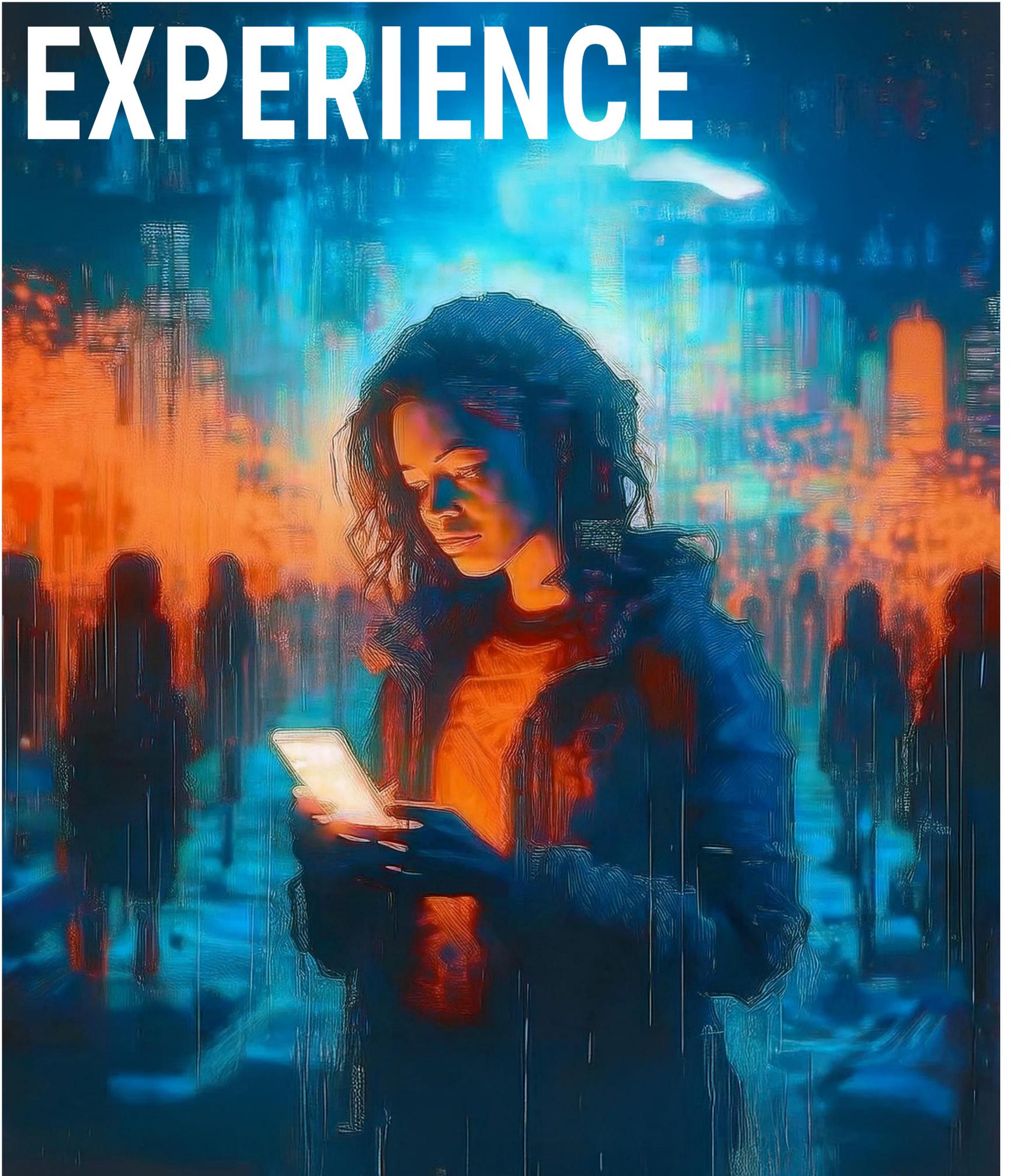
Briana Woods-Jaeger, PhD
Emory University

BRIANA WOODS-JAEGER is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Equity and Engagement in the Department of Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences and Associate Director of the Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory University. She is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist specializing in culturally affirming approaches to care and systems-level interventions to address trauma that center cultural humility. Dr. Woods-Jaeger’s research examines social and structural drivers of health inequities associated with trauma and early adversity and culturally responsive, strengths-based solutions to these inequities. She is currently a Principal Investigator on research projects supported by the NIH, CDC, PCORI, and William T. Grant Foundation focused on partnering with communities to identify ways to prevent violence and support different systems in responding to the needs of trauma-exposed youth and families of color.

THANK YOU
TO OUR JUDGES

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