

Carrie Hanley

Background

I graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and served five years on active duty as an Air Force officer. During this time, I garnered invaluable experience as a supervisor and leader. After my military service, I joined the U.S. Peace Corps and served as a health volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa. I lived in a remote village and worked with the maternal and youth trekking team to provide healthcare to villages cut off from services. My experience as a volunteer instilled in me a passion for public health. After returning from the Peace Corps, I supervised multiple medical practices that were part of a network of community health centers providing healthcare to underserved communities. I wanted to further my education in public health and found that the epidemiology program at the University of Pittsburgh was a perfect fit. I received my MPH in epidemiology and decided to continue on for my doctorate to further develop my skills as an epidemiologist.

Areas of Interest

My dissertation research focuses on the fat located around the heart and aorta. This type of cardiovascular adipose tissue is a complex and active organ that may be of particular importance due to its close proximity to the heart and vasculature. I hope to understand this type of fat and its association with the development of arterial calcification among women transitioning through menopause.

The Program

The Cardiovascular Epidemiology Training Program provides students with a solid foundation in epidemiology, biostatistics, clinical research, and public health. The faculty and staff have a wealth of knowledge and experience that they are willing to share with students. The training program complements the coursework and provides additional opportunities for students to develop skills in public speaking and networking.

Future Plans

The training I am receiving will provide me with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to be a successful independent researcher at an academic institution.

Advice to Prospective Students

My advice to prospective students is to take time to look at the Graduate School of Public Health website and read about the current research projects that are happening in the epidemiology department. If a particular research project or study is of interest to you, contact the professor directly. In addition, keeping an open mind regarding research opportunities is important.