

2023 IJI Board

## Sarah Battiston (She/her)

Sarah Battiston is a board member of the Institutional Inclusion and Justice (IJI) Committee. Before attending Wayne State, she obtained her BS in Biomedical Science and minor in Religious Studies at Grand Valley State University. Her passion for social justice grew during her time serving the Detroit community at Crossroads of Detroit and her time studying in various religious institutions.

Though Sarah advocates for all change regarding diversity, equity and inclusion her specific interest reside in implicit bias, racial and gender disparities and religious equity. During her time in IJI she has created a new religious holiday policy so her peers of various faiths have equitable time to celebrate their religious holidays without repercussions. She assisted in the gender equity in medicine taskforce in the creation of a parental leave policy. She also has an interest in critically conscious curriculum and has conducted studies of medical curriculum to understand implicit pathologizing of minority populations. Notably she received the Warrior of Distinction Award from the Status on the Commission of Women for her JEDI and gender advocacy work.

Sarah hopes to continue advocating for critically conscious curriculum and closing the gaps of racial and gender disparities that affect the Detroit population.



# Curtis Mack (He/him)

My name is Curtis Mack. I was born and raised in Detroit, MI. I graduated from Grand Valley State University. After graduating I completed the Post-Baccalaureate Program here at Wayne State School of Medicine. IJI is a wonderful conduit for me to pursue my burning interest in equity and inclusivity for all students here at the SOM. For me, it's not just about the studying, but also about creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and supported. I strongly believe that diversity and inclusivity are not just buzzwords; they're the foundation of a thriving and harmonious community. As President of BMA and through the IJI, I hope to champion this cause and foster a culture that embraces and celebrates the unique perspectives and experiences of each student. When we bring together a diverse group of minds, we unlock a powerhouse of innovation and understanding that can benefit all of us.



# Emily Otiso (She/her)

Emily Otiso is a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student on the Institutional Justice and Inclusion (IJI) Committee. Emily previously earned a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, a Minor in Chemistry, and a Certificate in the Conceptual Foundations of Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh. She spent her gap years working in hospitals serving urban underserved communities in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area prior to matriculating to WSUSOM. The experiences she had living, working, and serving this community – most notably during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and during the civil uprising following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmed Aubrey—inspired her to pursue social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion work in medical school.

Emily is passionate about repairing the health care and education system to truly serve all communities equitably, rebuilding a trusting relationship between our health care institutions and our marginalized/minoritized populations, eliminating implicit bias from medical education, and to transforming medical education into a more just, inclusive, diverse, accessible, and affordable pathway for students to pursue. Emily previously was recognized for her activism on racial justice by the American Psychiatric Association Area 4 Council and was named as one of the winners of Hope Babette Tang Humanism in Healthcare Essay Contest. In her third and final year on IJI, Emily hopes to continue advocating for the implementation of policies and practices which create a more inclusive, just, welcoming, supportive environment for our diverse WSUSOM community.



# Adam Chaban (He/Him)

Adam Chaban is a 2nd year medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM). Adam has worked for 5 years in the field of Harm Reduction advocating for the Sacramento, California community who uses substances while earning his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from University of California, Davis. Since starting at WSUSOM, he has continued his work in Harm Reduction by holding the Harm Reduction co-chair position with Street Medicine Detroit and is an outreach coordinator with Middle Eastern Synergistic Health.

Adam's work with the Harm Reduction Philosophy highlighted the importance of social work, public health, and medicine which requires equitable platforms for marginalized voices and concerns to be accounted for, especially as these communities are stigmatized against. The work done in these communities is translatable and necessary for inclusivity of intersectional identities at WSUSOM. Through IJI, he hopes to create curriculum inclusions that combat stigma and implicit biases while highlighting the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of our peers.



## Jodie Takahashi (she/her)

Jodene (Jodie) Takahashi (she/her) is a Japanese-Brazilian-American and a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community. She graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in California with a BS in Biological Sciences and a minor in Psychology. During undergrad, she was involved in research about the barriers to healthcare created by discriminatory policies and negative media portrayals of undocumented immigrants in California. In medical school at Wayne State she has led and been involved in projects increasing protections for LGBTQ+ medical students – particularly transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming students – as well as the inclusion of gender affirming healthcare in the medical school curriculum. Jodie believes deeply that the language and attitudes used in teaching about marginalized identity groups in medical education can have a significant lasting impact on the care students go on to provide their future patients with, and that a commitment to a just and inclusive curriculum and environment is necessary for educating future physicians.



# Ashley Kramer (She/her)

Born in the blizzard ridden tippy top of Minnesota in Bemidji, this fridged northerner has fully acclimated to the slight warmer friendly environment of Detroit, MI. Ashley started her MD/PhD training track way back in 2017 and has since come through the other side of the PhD, entering back to the medical curriculum as an M3. Ashley has served the student body in a number of ways through her time here thus far, founding the Art in Medicine Student organization in 2018, and serving on the Executive Student Senate for 3 years as Secretary and 1 year as Executive MD/PhD student representative.

While she has always been interested in learning more about how to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), it wasn't until the world turned upside down in 2020 when Ashley began to take a very active role in DEI work. In 2020, Ashley had the opportunity to participate in the "Healing Between the Lines" pilot curriculum at Wayne State in which she learned about structural policies that perpetuate racist ideology and prevent progress for underrepresented groups (i.e. redlining, food deserts, the carceral system, etc.). During this same period of time, she also worked with some of the founders of IJI to develop the Social Justice in Medical Education Coalition (SJMEC), whose mission is to perform page-by-page standardized and evidence-based review of the WSUSOM curriculum to identify areas for action and development as they relate to DEI. Very recently, the SJMEC has officially been incorporated as a permanent standing committee on the Curriculum Management Committee at WSUSOM and she couldn't be more thrilled to work with the Chair of the committee, Dr. Riddle-Jones, and IJI, to help make the change that the healthcare and medical education worlds so desperately need! Ashley also serves as a member of the new "End Race-based Medicine Taskforce" at WSUSOM led by Dr. Riddle-Jones as well.



## Suma Alzouhayli (She/her)

Suma Alzouhayli is a fourth-year medical student who has been working in the JEDI in medicine space for about 6 years. Prior to attending WSUSOM, Suma aspired to be a leader of IJI and she is very grateful to have been a direct mentee to the IJI founders. Suma played a pivotal role as an original team member of the Community Needs and Assets Assessment - a project that established the basis for multiple student-led and administrative institutional shifts toward inclusion and equity, including the establishment of the Social Justice Medical Education Coalition, the Racism in Medicine and Diversity Week Series, and implementation of implicit bias and microaggressions training, to name a few. Suma strives to inspire others to appreciate different perspectives and adopt JEDI frameworks to medical training and patient care. Suma is passionate about showing up for this work, listening, and acting with integrity. She is grateful for another year to serve on IJI and is excited for the progress IJI will make this year.

