



Fiona Chace-Donahue
Laboratory Research Fellow

Testing different methods to increase sensitivity in lateral flow tests

"I was drawn to the Siemens Foundation-PATH Fellowship because of my fascination with the intrinsic complexity of the constantly evolving world of global healthcare systems and PATH's focus on innovation and collaboration across disciplines to create more equity in healthcare around the world."

Fiona is pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience and Behavior at Mount Holyoke College, expecting to graduate in May, 2020.

After experiencing eight concussions in middle and high school, Fiona became very interested in how the brain works and, more specifically, how her own brain was as resilient as it had proven to be. Working as a neuroscience research assistant for the last two and a half years has helped her learn to think creatively and be analytical -- to see the whole and discover how the parts fit together and might be rearranged to create something new. She has also gained insight through her work as a tutor, peer mentor and classroom assistant.

As a champion of pediatric chronic pain awareness and treatment, Dr. Rachael Coakley, attending Psychologist, Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital and Assistant Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School, has been Fiona's inspiration to work every day to improve the world for others and push the limit of what is possible for herself.

Motivated to pursue a fellowship in STEM and global health due to the unique opportunity to have an in-depth experience of collaboration and service with research scientists, healthcare professionals, and innovators, Fiona hopes to learn new research skills and techniques in product development, testing and improvement. She attributes her passion for research with the vast need for improved global healthcare and global healthcare resources and looks forward to gaining more insight into the very real issues in global healthcare and the skills to acknowledge problems, implement innovative solutions, and maintain changes.

One of the greatest challenges Fiona sees as facing her generation is the need for empathy. She sees the foundation of an effective and sustainable solution to a large problem as being rooted in compassion for the people impacted as it is core to the relationships we have with one another and therefore a necessary driving force in large-scale, long-term change.

After completing her Bachelor of Science degree, Fiona's plans are to go on to obtain a master's degree in Public Health before attending medical school and specializing in pediatric medicine. Regardless of what career she ultimately pursues, Fiona is committed to a career in research and medicine that will directly impact the lives of individuals while working to support systems level change.