Emily Reichert
Data Science Fellow
Understanding and analyzing the process and results of a new malaria diagnostic

"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."

Emily is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology - Quantitative Track, with minors in statistics and analytics, and chemistry at the University of North Carolina, expecting to graduate in May, 2020.

From a young age, Emily's father sparked her interest in healthcare and the pursuit of her passions, and one of her research mentors, Dr. Xianfeng Wang, encouraged her not to limit her education to the classroom, but to push herself to continually meet new people and learn about new places as a means to a lifelong education.

Having always loved working with numbers and possessing a strong interest in healthcare Emily didn't realize the many ways in which the two could intersect until her public health coursework in college made her aware of the numerous professional opportunities to improve human health conditions beyond becoming a physician. A global health course project about the obstacles preventing women from seeking and accessing proper prenatal care in The Gambia made her aware of the international structural barriers that prevent billions of people from accessing quality healthcare, and a project modeling the Haitian 2010 cholera outbreak exploring factors that increased the infection rate showed her the value of data in the investigation and treatment of disease. Since then, she has enjoyed doing data analysis work for a study of birth outcomes in Zambia through the UNC Institute for Global Health & Infectious Disease, motivating her to apply for the global health fellowship at PATH.

Emily thinks one of the biggest challenges for her generation will be to work toward using technology more as a tool for shared learning and communication and less for personal entertainment and the use of social media channels that discourage human interaction. If used to connect and empower people around the world, these same technologies are able to help healthcare providers share data globally and have greatly improved healthcare strategies.

In the future Emily wants to pursue a career that allows her to tackle prominent global health issues and improve worldwide access to quality care. She is interested in pursuing a graduate degree in epidemiology based on her enjoyment of the data analysis component of investigating disease and problem-solving potential solutions.