

Esther E. Herring (née Ayuk), MS, CCC-SLP (she, her, hers)
Instructor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)
Coordinator, MGH Institute of Health Professions Aphasia Center
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Education

MS, Speech Language Pathology, MGH Institute (IHP), Boston, MA	2015
BA, Linguistics, Rice University, Houston, TX	2013

Certificates and Licensure

HRA Clinical Research & Good Clinical Practice, Mass General Brigham	2024-Present
Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (Knowledge Badge), Aphasia Access	2024-Present
Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study (VFSS) Competency, Spaulding Hospital	2021-Present
Modified Barium Swallow Impairment Profile (MBSImP), Northern Speech Services	2021-2026
Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS), Brain Injury Association of America	2021-2024
MA State Licensure Speech-Language Pathology #9916	2016-Present
Certificate of Clinical Competence, American Speech-Language Hearing Association	2016-Present
Basic Life Support (CPR & AED), American Heart Association	2016-Present

Academic Appointments

Instructor, IHP CSD Department, Boston, MA	2020 – Present
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Clinical Appointments

Advanced Clinician, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH), Boston, MA	2016-Present
Speech-Language Pathologist, Therapy Resources Management, Boston, MA	2015-2016

Administrative Appointments

Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee of IHP Faculty Senate, Boston, MA	2024 – Present
Balint Facilitator, IHP, Boston, MA	2023 – Present
Equity Advocate, IHP, Boston, MA	2021 – Present
Coordinator, IHP Aphasia Center, Boston, MA	2021-Present
Clinical Practicum Coordinator, IHP CSD Department	2020-2021

Honors and Awards

Pillars of Excellence Balint Team Award: Fostering Community (IHP)	2024
Research Fellow, Tedy's Team Center of Excellence in Stroke Recovery (IHP)	2023
50 for the Next 50: Women Defining the Future (The Williston Northampton School)	2022
Faculty Award for Excellence (IHP CSD Department)	2022
Clinical Scholar (SRH)	2021
John Means Spenser Caregiver of the Year Nominee (SRH)	2019
Clinical Scholar (SRH)	2018

Grants

Current

Tedy's Team Center of Excellence in Stroke Recovery	2023-2024
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Activating Life Participation: Tracking outcomes after an Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program
Amount Awarded: \$4,175.98
Role: Principal Investigator

Slavin Academy Education Research Scholars Grant Program

2024-2026

Outcomes of telehealth etiquette training on health professional competency and patient satisfaction in telehealth care delivery (PI: Rachel Pittmann, PhD, CCC-SLP)

Amount Awarded: \$12,000

Role: Co-Investigator

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

1. Schliep, M., Kasparian, L., Kaminski, O., Tierney-Hendricks, C., **Ayuk, E.**, Wagner, L. B., Koymen, S., & Vallila-Rohter, S. (2020). Implementing a standardized language evaluation in the acute phases of aphasia: linking Evidence-Based practice and Practice-Based evidence. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 11.
2. Sabo, K., Bell, J., **Ayuk, E.**, Clock, C. Reidy, P. (2025) Exploring Mobile Health Clinics: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

Online materials

1. Corwin, M., Simmons-Mackie, N., Haley, K., Morrison, B., Hallowell, B., Laures-Gore, J., Nicholas, M., **Ayuk, E.**, Shelley, K. (2025) Person-Centered Care: The Life Participation Approach to Aphasia. Practice Certificate. *Aphasia Access*. Retrieved from www.aphasiaaccess.org

Editor-reviewed chapters

Mackey, J.E., Ayuk, E., Pennington, S., Pittmann, R. (2026). Chapter 21, Learning in an interprofessional Faculty-Mentored Student Practice Center. In Hagler, D., Hultquist, B. L., & Bradshaw, M. J. (Eds). *Innovative teaching strategies in nursing and related health professions 9th ed.* (pp. 299-308). Jones & Bartlett.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

1. **Ayuk, E.**, Pennington, S., & Nicholas, M. (2024, December 7) *Promoting Life Participation After Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programs: Finding a Way Forward with Behavioral Activation*. [Oral seminar]. American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Convention, Seattle, WA.
2. Moran, L., **Ayuk, E.** (2022, November 16). *Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Integrating Modified Barium Swallow Impairment Profile (MBSImP) into Dysphagia Curriculum* [Poster session]. American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Convention, New Orleans, LA.
3. Wyatt, E., Sisson, M., & **Ayuk, E.** (2022, November 16). *Finding the Words: Stories of Identity, Creativity, and Adaptation by and for the Aphasia Community* [Poster session]. American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Convention, New Orleans, LA.
4. **Ayuk, E.**, Moran, L., & Mackey, J. (2021, November 18) *Transparency and shared decision-making in clinical education: the effects of parallel pandemics*. [Oral seminar]. American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Convention, Washington D.C.
5. Schliep, M., Tierney-Hendricks, C., **Ayuk, E.**, Wagner, L. B., Levine, C., & Vallila-Rohter, S. (2019, November 21) *Assessing Change and Predicting Outcomes in Aphasia Rehabilitation*. [Poster session]. American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Convention, Orlando, FL.
6. Schliep, M., Kasparian, L., Kaminski, O., Tierney-Hendricks, C., **Ayuk, E.**, Wagner, L. B., Koymen, S., North, B., & Vallila-Rohter, S. (2018, November 16) *The Impact of Standardizing Language Assessments from the Acute to Subacute Continuum of Care*. [Oral seminar] American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Convention, Boston, MA.

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Media appearances

Ayuk, E., Black Schaffer, R., Brady Wagner, L., Lanzillo, J., Lanzillo, D., Hildebrand, M., & Nicholas, M. (2024). No Easy Game: An Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program's first five years (Season 1, Episode 5). *Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital: Finding Strength Podcast*. Retrieved from spauldingrehab.org/research/about/podcast/episode-5-aphasia

Invited Presentations

Regional

Career Development Seminar, IHP SLPD Program, Boston, MA	2024
Career Development Seminar, IHP SLPD Program, Boston, MA	2023
Imposter Syndrome: Does it ever go away? MASHA Educational Webinar, Boston, MA	2023
Provider-Patient Communication Training, SRH Physical Medicine & Rehab Dept., Boston, MA	2022
Provider-Patient Communication Training, SRH Physical Medicine & Rehab Dept, Boston, MA	2021
Provider-Patient Communication Training, SRH Physical Medicine & Rehab Dept, Boston, MA	2020
Provider-Patient Communication Training, SRH Physical Medicine & Rehab Dept, Boston, MA	2019

Educational Activities

Courses Taught

Fall 2024

CD 843 Acquired Cognitively Based CD, Instructor	2024
CD 871 Clinical Practicum III, Co-Instructor	2024

Summer 2024

CD 873 Clinical Practicum V, Co-Instructor	2024
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Spring 2024

CD 839 Aphasia in Adults: Assessment & Intervention	2024
CD 872 Clinical Practicum IV, Co-Instructor	2024

Fall 2023

CD 843 Acquired Cognitively Based CD, Instructor	2023
CD 871 Clinical Practicum III, Co-Instructor	2023

Summer 2023

CD 873 Clinical Practicum V, Co-Instructor	2023
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Spring 2023

CD 872 Clinical Practicum IV, Co-Instructor	2023
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Fall 2022

CD 843 Acquired Cognitively Based CD, Instructor	2022
CD 871 Clinical Practicum III, Co-Instructor	2022

Summer 2022

CD 873 Clinical Practicum V, Co-Instructor	2022
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Spring 2022

CD 839 Aphasia in Adults: Assessment & Intervention, Co-Instructor	2022
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CD 872 Clinical Practicum IV, Co-Instructor	2022
Fall 2021	
CD 843 Acquired Cognitively Based CD, Instructor	2021
CD 871 Clinical Practicum III, Co-Instructor	2021
Summer 2021	
CD 840 Dysphagia in Adults and Children, Co-Instructor	2021
Spring 2021	
CD 870C Clinical Seminar III, Co-Instructor	2021
Fall 2020	
CD 843 Acquired Cognitively Based CD, Co-Instructor	2020
CD 870B Clinical Seminar II, Co-Instructor	2020
HP 712 Foundations of Teaching & Learning, Teaching Assistant	2020
Summer 2020	
CD 770 Year 1 Clinical Outplacement Seminar, Co-Instructor	2020
CD 840 Dysphagia in Adults and Children, Teaching Assistant	2020
Curriculum Development	
Content Developer, <i>The LPAA Practice Certificate</i>	2025
Disseminated best practices in aphasia intervention to a national audience via a self-paced, online learning platform. Curriculum provides clinicians with practice selecting assessments, goals, and interventions that address the A-FROM model and Life Participation Approach to Aphasia.	
Content Developer, <i>Practical Approaches to Assessing People with Aphasia (PWA)</i>	2024
Developed an online, asynchronous simulation training course designed to provide graduate student clinicians in speech-language pathology practical experience evaluating and diagnosing adults with aphasia. Course was developed on Desire2Learn platform and is completed by graduate student clinicians in preparation for their clinical placement experience at the IHP Aphasia Center. Synchronous debrief session and extension activities are conducted during Aphasia Center orientation to support students in translating findings of assessment into goal setting and treatment planning.	
Content Developer, <i>Behavioral Activation Treatment-Revision for Aphasia (BAT-RA)</i>	2024
Developed an adapted version of the Behavioral Activation Treatment program for people with aphasia (referred to as BAT-Revision for Aphasia or BAT-RA) to accommodate language impairments due to post-stroke aphasia. Collaborated with Occupational Therapy and Public Health researchers who specialize in activity participation and mental health/wellness to evaluate and refine program components. The adapted protocol was trialed with four participants over the course of 12 weeks; findings of the pilot program will be presented at the 2024 ASHA convention in Seattle, WA.	
Beta Tester, <i>Person-Centered Care: The LPAA Knowledge Course</i>	2022
Beta tester as part of Aphasia Access E-Learning Committee. This online, self-paced course offers novel and expert clinicians the opportunity for practical assessment, collaborative goal setting, and intervention examples to enhance treatment for people with aphasia and their loved ones.	
Co-Organizer & Moderator, Sanders IMPACT Practice Center (IPC) Case Rounds	2022-Present

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Developed in collaboration with Nursing, Speech, and Physical Therapy centers at the IPC. Students participate in roundtable discussion to evaluate care planning outcomes and identify strategies that address the social determinants of health and overall wellbeing of shared clients. Rounds has since expanded to include IPC centers in Occupational Therapy and Technology in Practice.

Co-Organizer & Moderator, Sanders IPC Grand Rounds 2023

Developed learning objectives and support students and panelist from S-IHP's CAP program in preparation for event titled "*Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program: A Model for Interprofessional Education and Practice.*" Guided the discussion by presenting medical history, introducing speakers, and managing the Q&A.

Co-Organizer & Moderator, Sanders IPC Grand Rounds 2022

Developed learning objectives and support students and panelist from S-IHP's CAP program in preparation for event titled "*Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program: A Model for Interprofessional Education and Practice.*" Guided the discussion by presenting medical history, introducing speakers, and managing the Q&A.

Co-Organizer, Sanders IPC Grand Rounds 2021

Support students and panelist from Aphasia Center in preparation for event titled "*Impact of the Pandemic on Health (for those who have not contracted COVID).*"

Mentorship

Graduate Students

Dwyer, B., Boston University CSD Graduate Student 2024-2025

Role: Aphasia Access Mentor

Meet with mentee at least once per month and provide guidance on topics including preparing for clinical fellowship, integrating LPAA in clinical practice, and navigating workplace situations.

Li, M., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2024

Role: Thesis Committee Member

Advisor for the student's thesis titled "*Using Semantic Networking Strategies, Habit Formation, and Prompt Fading to Improve Anomia in Patients with Aphasia: A Single-Subject Design Investigation.*"

Watters, G., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2024

Role: Event Co-Organizer & Clinical Educator

Supported the student in preparation for Sanders IPC Grand Rounds on methods to analyze the case study and effectively communicate the outcomes of their intervention.

Abovich, J., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2023

Role: Thesis Committee Member

Advisor for thesis titled "*Can Unison Speaking Improve Syntactic Output of People with Aphasia?*"

Melchionno, L., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2022

Role: Independent Study Advisor

Independent study focused on identifying person-reported outcome measures appropriate for adults with aphasia. Findings were presented to S-IHP's CAP planning committee and Aphasia Center clinical educators for consideration in future programming. Findings resulted in acquisition of the *Assessment for Living with Aphasia* for use in future assessments at the IHP Aphasia Center.

Melchionno, L., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2022

Role: Event Co-Organizer & Clinical Educator

Coached student in preparation for Sanders IPC Grand Rounds on methods to communicate the outcomes of their intervention and methods to support client with severe aphasia on topics related to personal feelings/attitudes and environmental barriers. The experience led the student to pursue an Independent Study to further investigate person-led outcome measures that focus on obtaining information in these domains, in addition to the language impairment.

Fleishman, S., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2021

Role: Event Co-Organizer & Clinical Educator

Supported the student in developing functional goals and identifying treatment appropriates to support their client's oral presentation during IPC Grand Rounds.

Wyatt, E. (primary), Sison, M. (contributor), IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Students 2021

Role: Independent Study Advisor

Independent study focused on exploring the use of art as a means for storytelling in people with aphasia. Supported the graduate student in recruitment of IHP Aphasia Center artists and interviewing them using supported communication techniques. Facilitated collaboration with IHP Office of Communications and CSD peer to publish an aphasia friendly multi-media magazine titled "*Finding the Words: Aphasia Center Story Collective*." Results of the independent study were presented during a poster session at the 2021 ASHA Convention.

Kaczmarek, K., Melesio, E., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Students 2019

Role: SRH Clinical Educator

Supervised students as part of the Spaulding-IHP Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program.

Feldman, L., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2019

Role: SRH Clinical Educator

Supervised student as senior member on SRH Stroke Program.

Moore, J., IHP CSD Year 2 Graduate Student 2018

Role: SRH Clinical Supervisor

Supervised student as senior member on SRH Stroke Program.

Licensed Clinicians

Michel, A., Speech-Language Pathologist in Rennes, France 2023-2024

Role: Aphasia Access Mentor

Met at least once per month and informally communicated over the year on topics including evidence-based approaches to aphasia assessment and treatment, review of current research in aphasia, and methods to address barriers to integrating the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia in clinical service.

Clinical Innovations and Quality Improvement Projects

Activating Life Participation 2023-Present
Grant funded quality improvement project aimed at promoting activity participation in people with aphasia after completing the Spaulding-MGH IHP Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program (S-IHP's CAP). Developed and piloted a version of Behavioral Activation Treatment program for people with for aphasia (referred to as BAT-Revision for Aphasia or BAT-RA).

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IMPACT Practice Center Electronic Health Record Task Force 2023-Present
Collaborate with IPC Director, Operations Manager, and center coordinators to evaluate and identify best electronic health record system to fit the needs of the MGH IHP IMPACT Practice Center.

Aphasia Center Documentation Task Force 2021-2023
Led redesign of clinical documentation at the MGH IHP Aphasia Center to enhance student learning experience and improve clinical workflow. Templates were adapted to compliment current systems used by Mass General Brigham SLPs and were integrated into core coursework for added practice and refinement. Templates are accessible to students across all stages of learning and offer practical opportunities to practice clinical writing.

CSD Placement Planning Process Improvement Project 2020-2021
Collaborated with CSD faculty experts in clinical education and supervision to refine process for placing students in external clinical practicums to enhance transparency and shared decision making. Outcomes from pilot program were used to inform later iterations of the placement planning process which is currently used by the MGH IHP CSD department.

Post Professional SLPD (PP-SLPD) Program Development Team 2020-2021
Assist the Post Professional SLD Program (PPSLPD) director in the launch of the program including curriculum development and coordinating the and implementation of student recruitment and retention strategies

SRH Discharge Planning Process Improvement Project 2020-2021
Nominated to SRH interprofessional committee charged with defining discharge planning checklist to enhance transparency and communication between patients, caregivers, and healthcare team members for safe, effective transfer across the continuum of care.

SRH Stroke Family Discussion Group Quality Improvement Project 2019-2021
Led redesign team that evaluated the format, content, and impact of SRH Stroke Program's Stroke Family Discussion Group. New program format was periodically assessed to identify methods to enhance the success of group and group dynamic. Framework created by the re-design team was utilized to guide pivot to virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SRH Stroke Outcomes Task Force 2018-2020
Co-led development and implementation of standardized battery for aphasia to aid in diagnostics and tracking changes from acute care (T1) to inpatient rehabilitation (T2) and discharge (T3). Outcomes showed standardized batteries are feasible to integrate into clinician workflow and support clinician confidence in diagnosing aphasia type.

Professional Memberships and Activities

National Aphasia Association Black American Aphasia Conversation Group 2023-Present
The Black American Aphasia Conversation Group is a place for Black people with aphasia to share their stories, provide support, encourage meditative reflection, and brainstorm ways to advocate for relevant policies.

Aphasia Access Life Participation Mentor 2022-Present
Nominated by Aphasia Access e-learning committee members to serve as mentor in pilot program. Facilitated monthly coaching meetings with a licensed SLPs and graduate student clinicians interested in adult neurogenic and integrating LPAA into clinical practice.

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Aphasia Access E-Learning Task Force 2022-Present
Invited by CSD program director to join task force with SLP experts in aphasia. Goals include disseminating best practices in aphasia intervention via online learning platforms and workshops.

National Aphasia Association (NAA) Affiliate 2022-Present
Represent the MGH IHP Aphasia Center in discussions with center coordinators and clinicians across the nation. Topics of discussion including advocacy initiatives, community outreach, and other NAA initiatives to support people with aphasia and their loved ones.

Northeast Alliance for Speech, Language, and Hearing (NEASLH) 2021-Present
Invited by program director to represent the MGH IHP in newly formed NEASLH program. Serve on membership and programs committee aimed at supporting the needs of BIPOC CSD students and professionals.

Member, Neurogenic Special Interest Group ASHA 2021-Present

Member, American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) 2013-Present

Institutional Service (Ongoing)

IHP Strategic Planning Team 2024-Present
Collaborate with JEDI office and other faculty/staff part of the IHP strategic planning team focusing on the strategic objective of "Cultivate didactic and clinical learning environments that foster a sense of belonging, inclusion, and safety" under the Strategy area of "Foster an Exceptional Learning Community to Support Student Success".

CSD Acquired Disorders Curriculum Committee 2023-Present
Integrate objectives and content across CSD courses in acquired disorders of language, cognition, motor speech, voice, and swallowing and serve as advisory board to adjunct faculty. Created survey to examine areas of strength and knowledge gaps in student learning and clinical performance. Analyzed findings and support committee chair in disseminating findings to CSD faculty.

Balint Leadership Group 2023 – Present
Balint Groups are for professionals who work with people in the care such as clients, patients, or students. Balint Groups are designed to be spaces to explore troublesome interactions to find understanding, peace, and renewed energy to promote better care. The entry-point for leader training with the American Balint Society is attendance at an intensive, a formal requirement for further Balint Training.

Faculty Affairs Committee Chair (formerly Hearing Committee) 2022-Present
Member-at-large elected to serve as chair of committee in AY24-25 with primary goals including defining guidelines for addressing faculty affairs, creating guidelines for JEDI issues that affect faculty, and collaborate with Bellack Library to identify continuing education needs of IHP faculty.

MGH IHP Equity Advocate 2022-Present
Ensure a fair and consistent process is used in IHP hiring process to minimize the impact of cognitive and structural biases.

Power, Privilege, and Positionality (PPP) Facilitator 2022-Present

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Hybrid course that supports incoming IHP students and broader community in building foundational knowledge about JEDI principles and how they relate to health and health professions.

MGH IHP Implementation Science Conference Planning Committee 2022-Present
Participate in annual meetings to inform aims and execution of MGH IHP Implementation Science Conference.

IMPACT Practice Center Curriculum Committee 2021-Present
Participate in monthly interprofessional meeting to review, oversee, and inform clinical curriculum offered at the IMPACT Practice Center

IMPACT Practice Center Operations Committee 2021-Present
Participate in monthly interprofessional meeting to review, oversee, and inform program specific and interprofessional operations at the IMPACT Practice Center

Aphasia Center Coordinator 2021-Present
Lead curriculum development and supervision of CSD graduate students in Year 2 of clinical externship. Identify methods to optimize client recruitment, retention, and community outreach programming. Conduct operational duties including scheduling and communications with clients, students, and interprofessional colleagues.

Spaulding-IHP Comprehensive Aphasia Program Steering Committee Chair 2020-Present
Review program details and identify areas for growth or redevelopment, implement changes to annual programming, facilitate recruitment of participants and students for annual program, and conduct market analysis to maximize program impact.

Reviewer, CSD Admissions Team 2020-Present
Review prospective applicants for admission to the MGH IHP CSD program.

Faculty Advisor, MGH IHP CSD Department 2020-Present
Serve as formal advisor for approximately four students enrolled in CSD Master's program in addition to providing mentorship and support to students interested in adult neurogenic disorders and students of color.

Institutional Service (Performed)

CSD MS Faculty Search Committee 2022
Search committee member for the Clinical Instructor Position in the CSD Department.

Aphasia Rehabilitation Implementation Science Exchange (ARISE) Workgroup 2021-2022
Collaborative team of SLP clinicians affiliated with Spaulding Rehabilitation Network aimed at promoting best practices in aphasia intervention and research of aphasia outcomes across the continuum of care.

Spaulding Rehab Network Health, Equity, and Community Outreach (HECO) 2021-2022
Address gap in services for patients eligible for discharge to the community and investigate methods to enhance mobile health delivery in neighboring communities.

CSD SLPD Faculty Search Committee 2021

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Served as search committee equity advocate for the SLPD Assistant Professor Position.

CSD Clinical Practicum Committee 2020-2021
Manage Year 2 clinical practicum experiences for MS students across the MGB network.

External Clinical Supervisor Education Task Force 2020-2021
Collaborate with CSD faculty to identify methods to enhance clinical preceptors' knowledge and awareness of JEDI principles and methods to integrate culturally responsive practice into clinical supervision.

Community Service

MGH Youth Neurology Education & Research Program Career Panelist 2024
National Speech-Language Hearing Month Advocacy Day with NEASLH Facilitator 2024
Aphasia Access E-Learning Quarterly Q&A Panelist 2023
Codman Academy Guest Speaker 2022
Youth to Health Careers Summer Enrichment Program Guest Speaker 2021-2022
SRH Stroke Family Discussion Group Leader 2018-2021
MGH Youth Scholars Program, Volunteer 2017-2021
American Heart Association, Boston Heart Walk Volunteer. 2017-Present