



Allison Cheung

Laboratory Research Fellow

“I hope to use the skills that I’ve developed from this fellowship to work in pandemic prevention to predict when and from where disease will spread. I see myself working at the interface of research and practice as an infectious disease doctor who also develops and implements health interventions in limited resource settings. ”

Allison Cheung will receive her Bachelors of Science in molecular biology from Yale University in 2018. As part of a longer joint program, she will also receive her Master’s degree in microbial diseases from the Yale School of Public Health in 2019.

Allison started her interest in biology from middle school, and discovered her passion for global health in college. She credits her high school teacher as a defining influence who encouraged her to be “more than just another doctor,” and who taught her that careers are not rigid, defined occupations, but rather a dynamic, fluid path that one can forge however they want. She cites a math class, “Calculus for the Biosciences” as making her realize that you could quantify and even predict something that seemed as unpredictable as an epidemic.

Allison is interested in the interconnection of the many different factors that can play into disease intervention: where people’s values and cultural beliefs play a role in shaping the way they receive healthcare, and where social structures, the environment and health policy are all key players. Through research and volunteer work, she was able to see that so much can be done to prevent disease from happening in the first place, before a person even steps foot in a hospital. It’s this big-picture, holistic view that draws her to global health.