

SIEMENS | Foundation

2018 Siemens Foundation-PATH Fellowship



Kerra Mercon

Laboratory Research Fellow

“Working in global health will provide me with a broader perspective of the necessity of accessible medicine. I hope to learn more about how best to develop medical devices and diagnostic tools that will be successful and appropriate for low resource areas so that everyone can access the technology regardless of income.”

Kerra Mercon is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering at George Washington University and expects to graduate in May, 2019.

Kerra was inspired to pursue a career in science and engineering by her mom, an epidemiologist who taught her about the major public health issues facing the world. Her passion for biomedical engineering was solidified when she worked as an intern at an ALS clinic for two summers. Kerra saw patients who were eager to try new medical devices aimed at increasing their quality of life but found their cost to be prohibitive. She realized the immense impact that small affordable medical devices could have on a patient’s daily life and became determined to help people with chronic diseases.

Kerra hopes to launch a career in the medical device field developing accessible assistive technology services for people with degenerative diseases and hopes her fellowship will allow her to learn about the design process and how best to create an effective diagnostic tool for low resource communities.

The greatest challenge Kerra sees for her generation is the growing cost of medical care. She feels that determining a way to reduce the cost for routine medical visits may reduce the number of people who die prematurely from preventable diseases and allow for earlier diagnoses and the opportunity for expanded treatment options.