Scholarship Awards Program

The PHO Scholarships Awards Program, which started in 2019 and awards scholarships to early-career PROMIS researchers, clinicians, and students to participate in the Annual PROMIS International Conferences. Scholarships are funded by the PHO with generous donations from members and others.
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Scholarship Award Recipients 2019-2025

2025 – The 11th Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 26-28 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA)

Emily Berich-Anastasio, MPH, LGPC is a licensed graduate professional counselor at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore, Maryland USA, one of the country's largest private non- profit psychiatric healthcare institutions. Emily is focused on the clinical application of ePRO data at the point-of-care across distinct mental healthcare service delivery models and on sharing how data-driven psychiatry can enhance clinical services.

Kimberly Brown, PhD is a post-doctoral fellow in pediatric psychology at Children's Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee USA. Kimberly's research presents how the integration of PROMIS in pre-appointment screening has helped guide multi-disciplinary program development by identifying a need for psychosocial support. PROMIS is aiding in discussion with families and allowing providers to more efficiently provide targeted intervention.

Rachel Chambers, BSc (Hons), MSc is a PhD Student at Cicely Saunders Institute at Kings College London, UK. Rachel's recent work has included a systematic review of patient- reported outcome measures (PROMs) validated for young adults living with life-limiting conditions, evaluating their psychometric properties. As co-host of the COSMIN European research club, Rachel facilitates discussions on outcome measurement and measurement properties.

Jad Fadlallah, MS, a medical student at University Health Network in Toronto Canada, is interested in solid organ transplantation and plans to integrate PROMIS into his future practice as a physician-scientist. Recently, Jad has focused his research on identifying different clusters of recovery after transplantation using PROMIS, with the aim of supporting earlier intervention for patients at risk of delayed recovery.

Antje Forster, MD is an internal medicine resident at Charité - University Medicine Berlin in Germany. With an interest in psychosomatics, Antje is investigating the longitudinal performance of PROMIS' health state utility score PROPr in cancer patients. Another project includes the development of PRO standard sets for different cancer entities and the cooperation with Samsung Medical Center Seoul on standardization, harmonization, and cultural adaptation of PROs.

Yuxi Jiang, MS is an early career research data scientist at the University of California, San Francisco USA. Yuxi has collaborated on a cluster analysis that categorized patients into four symptom profiles based on PROMIS physical function, pain, and mood scores. Analyzing the profiles against socio-demographics, health utilization, and tatus indicators, key predictors of quality-of-life outcomes, informing personalized treatment planning and optimized care delivery were identified.

Yining Lu is a doctoral student in information systems and statistics at the University of Colorado, Boulder USA participated in a recent study that used a fine-tuned large language model to validate and clarify the internal structures of seven PROMIS item banks. The study revealed cross-construct overlaps and provided guidance for improving measurement precision across domains, such as social isolation, fatigue, and physical function.

Caroline Palermo, BA is a clinical research coordinator at the University of Rochester in New York USA and a medical school applicant. As a human subject research specialist, Caroline coordinates activities in the Dept. of Orthopaedics, performs tests according to study protocols, and assists with recruitment and screening activities for a number of prospective studies. Caroline's research presents findings on the role of PROMIS role in preventative medicine, specifically screening for falls.

Henry Shu, MD is an orthopedic surgery resident at Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland USA. Henry's major research goal is to demonstrate the clinical utility of PROMIS in orthopaedic trauma, which has been one of the slowest orthopaedic subspecialties to adopt PROMIS in routine practice. Henry's long-term goal is to be an academic orthopaedic traumatologist who designs and leads multicenter clinical trials.

Xin Zhang, PhD is a post-doctoral fellow at Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at the National University of Singapore. With a background in nursing, Xin's current research is focused on the development and application of preference-based health outcome measures. The goal is to leverage PROMIS to establish and apply the value set of PROPr in Asia and to implement PROMIS profiles in clinical settings to evaluate their validity and reliability.

2024 – The 10th Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 17-18 (Cologne, Germany)

Kakha Bregvadze, MD is a PhD student at Tbilisi State Medical University, in Tbilisi, Georgia. As a PhD candidate in dermatology research, Kakha is focusing on health-related quality of life in Georgian patients with rare genetic diseases using PROMIS.

Ellie Choi, MBBS, MRCF is a dermatologist and PhD student at the National University Hospital in Singapore and also pursuing an MBA at Johns Hopkins. Ellie's research examines the discordance between patient and physician perspectives and will test a psycho-behavioural digital tool in dermatological patients and validate PROMIS Global 10 in Singapore patients.

Meryeme El Balqui, MSc is a graduate student in biostatistics at Laval University, in Quebec, Canada. Working as part of a large project to personalize prenatal screening through genomics, Meryeme used PROMIS to assess the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) of pregnant women to better understand the impact of prenatal screening methods on pregnant women's health, providing critical insights for clinical practice and future research.

Paul Hartman, DPT is a PhD student at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah USA, who is interested in improving the systematic delivery and implementation of evidence-based practices in orthopaedic physical therapy. Paul has helped develop a clinician-facing dashboard that uses PROMIS measures to track outcomes for quality improvement initiatives.

Jiseon Lee, MA is a PhD student at Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University, in Seoul, Korea. As part of the Korean PROMIS National Center, Jiseon is developing the Korean version of the PROMIS Stigma scale and is establishing a prospective cohort of pediatric epilepsy patients and caregivers. A Korean reference set will be created, and results will be compared between national surveys in Korea, the US, and the Netherlands.

Eszter Rózsa Leskó is a fourth year dental student at Semmelweis Univ. School of Dentistry in Budapest, Hungary, specializing in oral surgery. Eszter is using PROMIS to investigate how QOL is impacted by oral

cancer surgery, and how PROMs can improve treatment efficacy and patient well-being in oral cancer management programs.

Katherine Melton, PhD, RN is a research fellow at Boston Children's Hospital, in Boston, MA USA with interest in patient-centered outcomes research from the intersection of two professional identities: nurse and scientist. Katherine's uses the PROMIS Pediatric Peer Relationships scale to study peer relationships and self-management behaviors among adolescents with chronic illness.

Hari Sharma, BS is a medical student pursuing a joint MD MBA degree at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School in Worcester, MA USA. Hari has applied PROMIS to assess the implementation of value-based care via an orthopedic integrated practice unit; to evaluate the impact of a patient communication app on patient outcomes; and to examine resilience in older women post-hip fracture.

Maud van Muilekom, PhD is a post-doctoral fellow at Amsterdam University Medical Centers in the Netherlands focusing on the implementation of PROMs and PROMIS in clinical care. As part of the Dutch-Flemish PROMIS National Center, Maud is advising PROMIS users, formatting new measures, and ensuring the quality control of PROMIS measures in data administration platforms.

Anne Westerweel, MSc is a PhD student with the Pediatric Oncology PROMIS team at Princess Máxima Center in Utrecht and the Amsterdam University Medical Centers in the Netherlands. Anne is helping implement PROMIS at the Princess Máxima Center, validating and gathering normative data for parent-proxy measures, examining the validity of PROMIS in pediatric oncology, implementing PROMIS in care, and developing crosswalks with legacy instruments.

2023 – The 9th Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 22-24 (Banff, Canada)

Joshua Castle, MD is an orthopaedic surgery resident at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. PROMIS has become integrated into orthopaedic training there through both clinical practice and research. With an abundance of data available for every patient encounter, PROMIS data can be leveraged across the orthopaedic department and assess new surgical techniques.

Ellen Elsman, PhD is a fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute in Toronto. Canada. In The Netherlands she validated the PROMIS-29 in a large sample of Dutch adults. She has also established Dutch population reference scores for various adult PROMIS measures. She conducted a systematic review on the measurement properties of three PROMIS pediatric measures, demonstrating their valid and reliable use in pediatric routine care.

Teryn Holeman, MS is a student in the MD-PhD program at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her specialty area is surgery and population health science. Her research focuses on establishing validity, minimal clinically important differences, and the effectiveness of PROMIS measures for vascular surgery care management. Her career aspiration is to be able to bridge between PROs research and translation into clinical practice.

Christoph Paul Klapproth, MD is a resident and research fellow at Charité University Hospital and its Center for Patient-Centered Outcome Research in Berlin Germany. His primary research interests are the PROMIS Preference Score (PROPr) and implementation of PROM assessments in clinical routine and with different patient populations. Currently, he is working on implementing the PROMIS-29 (plus PROMIS Cognition short form) in all departments at Charité, the largest hospital in Europe.

Rui Li, PhD is a postdoctoral fellow at Seattle Children's Research Institute in Seattle, Washington. Her area of research is assessment epidemiology of acute and chronic pain in children, adolescents, and young adults, with a particular interest in sex differences. This work is part of a larger international collaboration and mission to guide measure selection for pediatric chronic pain, promoting their broader use in both research and clinical contexts.

Yeonjung Lim, MS is a PhD Student at Samsung Medical Center/Samsung Advanced Institute for Health Sciences & Technology, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Her research interest is PROs for intervention for chronic diseases. She recently conducted research on the general Korean population, using the PROMIS emotional distress to explore the risk factors associated with aggregation.

Maria Misiura, PhD is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Translational Research in Neuroimaging and Data Science at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Her research examines predictors of brain health at minority-serving undergraduate institutions using the depression, anxiety, and substance use PROMIS measures. She is interested in gaining insight into use of other PROMIS measures and expanding her work in health disparities in Black Americans.

Angela Preston, PhD is a postdoctoral fellow in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas at Austin. In her dissertation study with rural, underserved youth in the Nursing PhD Program at UT Austin, she used five pediatric PROMIS measures in her dissertation titled "The Measurement and Use of Psychological Capital to Promote Mental Health Among Rural, Underserved Youth." Her intention is to drive local school health policy decisions to promote mental health among rural, underserved youth.

Margaret-Ann Tait, MSc is a PhD student at the University of Sydney in Australia. In her role with the Sydney Quality of Life Office, she has provided technical services to the Cancer Clinical Trials groups across Australia and New Zealand. She recommended PROMIS to encourage the use of validated measures in clinical trials, as the measures are available across a wide range of PROs, easily accessible, and could be customized depending on their outcomes of interest.

2022 – The 8th Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 23-24 (Prague, Czechia)

Betul Bay, MSc is a PhD student in nursing at the University of Birmingham in Birmingham, United Kingdom. The focus of her dissertation project is development of a digital pain management application for use in the home setting of children with cancer. PROMIS will be important in defining a minimum pain intervention set that can be applied and guide pain management for children with cancer being cared for in the home setting.

David Bernstein, MD, MBA, MEI is a resident in the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program/Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA USA. His current research is focused on using PROMIS in clinical practice to predict outcomes, as part of value-based health care initiatives, and to help address issues related to social determinants of health (SDoH) and better understand health disparities.

Laurien Brauner, MSc is a PhD student at the Hogeschool Utrecht, University of Applied Sciences, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. As a speech and language therapist working with children, adolescents and adults, she is part of a research group working on development and implementation of a measure tailored to the experience of people with communication disorders.

Wajiha Ghazi, MSc is a graduate student working in clinical research at Toronto General Hospital in Toronto, Canada. She is involved in methodological and empirical projects related to validating PROMIS in patients with chronic kidney disease and integrating physical function assessments at clinical settings.

Gregory Gooding, BA is completing his MSc in experimental medicine with a concentration in digital health innovation at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec Canada. Current projects include harmonizing a core set of patient-valued Solid Organ Transplant (SOT) Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) domains with stakeholders (patients, clinicians, researchers, administrators).

Thymen Houwen, MD is a PhD student at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and is currently working at the Elisbeth-Tweesteden Ziekenhuis in Tilburg, The Netherlands. His work has focused on implementing PROMIS CAT measures into the practice of the trauma surgery department with the aim of showing the high potential and relevance of PROMIS to both trauma patients and trauma professionals.

Renee Jones, MPH is a PhD student at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne in Australia. Her specialty area is paediatric PROMs and her research has focused on evaluating the psychometric performance of the PROMIS-25 paediatric profile and other commonly used instruments.

Heena Manglani, PhD is a T32 postdoctoral research fellow in Integrative Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a clinical fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA USA. She is leveraging PROMIS measures to identify individual risk factors for physical, psychological, and cognitive decline in people with multiple sclerosis.

Lynn Tanner, MPT is a PhD student at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing in Minneapolis, MN USA. She will measure HRQOL in survivors of pediatric cancer using PROMIS measures and examine differences between survivors who did and did not receive physical therapy services during their cancer experience.

Iraís Yañez-Alvarez, PhD is a fellow at the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico in Morelos, Mexico. As a researcher in quality evaluation and quality improvement with a focus on maternal and neonatal care, she has experience in measurement of quality health outcomes through direct contact with women from vulnerable settings who seek healthcare in the Mexican public healthcare system.

2021 – The 7ᵗʰ Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 17-19 (virtual)

Tingting Cai is a PhD student in the School of Nursing, Fudan University, in Shanghai, China. She is engaged in using PROMIS measures in research and clinical practice to promote cancer care for patients with breast cancer.

Erik-Jan Haan, MSc is a PhD student and a physical therapist in the Research Group Lifestyle and Health, HU University of Applied Sciences, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. He is working on PROMIS implementation in primary care physical therapy to reduce the burden for both patients and PTs, and to improve comparability of outcomes.

Chao Long, MD is a plastic and reconstructive surgery resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, is obtaining an MPH at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her clinical interests include hand and upper extremity surgery, while her research interests include developing and implementing metrics that support delivery of patient-centered care.

Maria-Sophie Rothmund, BA, BSc is a MSc graduate student at the Medical University Innsbruck, in Innsbruck, Austria. She is working as a research associate, and within their research team they are

extending their expertise on quality of life assessment in children with cancer, which is her main research interest.

Sung keun Shim, MS has defended his PhD thesis at Samsung Medical Center/Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, South Korea. He is working in validating psychometric properties of a Korean version of the PROMIS physical function item bank and establishing Korean general population norm scores, including DIF analysis for language. His specialty area is focused on patient-reported outcomes and psycho oncology.

Vandana Sookdeo, MD is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Miami, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in Miami, Florida. She leads the administrative and operational efforts for the My Wellness Check Initiative, which aims to understand the needs of cancer survivors and develop a comprehensive model of care that effectively meets their needs, reduces cancer burden, and enhances quality of life.

Emma Stallwood, BPHE, BA is a graduate student in clinical psychology at McMaster University in Toronto, Ontario Canada. Her interest is in high quality measurement in pediatric mental health research, and she aims to implement pediatric PROMIS questionnaires in pediatric mental health trials.

2020 – The 6ᵗʰ Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 25-27 (virtual)

Leigh Andrews, MA is a PhD candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Delaware. His work on one grant is intended to develop symptom clusters using PROMIS and other PRO measures, and he is utilizing PROMIS depression and anxiety items on another grant to monitor symptoms during a self-management treatment for individuals with spinal cord injuries who suffer from anxiety and depression

Svetlana Avulova, MD is a first-year urologic oncology fellow at Mayo Clinic. Her research interests include addressing disparities in urologic oncology. She designed and initiated a prospective hypothesis-generating study evaluating women's sexual function, before and after radical cystectomy using the PROMIS Female Brief Profile.

Erin Chew, MD is an internal medicine resident at Johns Hopkins and a future rheumatologist. Her current research focus is on patient-related outcomes scales in the calculation of minimal disease activity in psoriatic arthritis.

Broca Stern, PhD, PTR, CHT, a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern, completed her PhD at New York University and recently began a post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern. The PROMIS framework and measurers were an integral part of her dissertation, which explored recovery after orthopedic trauma from a behavioral perspective.

Dan Zhao is a MA student in the School of Nursing, Soochow University, in Suzhou, China. Her research focus is on the use of patient-reported outcome measures in chronic diseases, especially in inflammatory bowel disease. Her thesis is on the cross-cultural translation and psychometric properties validation on the PROMIS measures of self-efficacy for managing chronic conditions.

2019 – The 5ᵗʰ Annual PROMIS International Conference, Oct. 25-27 (San Diego)

Rachel Campbell, PhD is an early career postdoctoral researcher in Australia at the University of Sydney, Faculty of Science, School of Psychology, Quality of Life Office. Her research focuses on optimizing the use of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in oncology research and clinical practice. As part of her role at the QOL Office, she also provides advice and training to the 14 national cancer clinical

trials groups in Australia to optimize the design, conduct, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of patient-reported outcomes in their clinical trials.

Sarah Leiber, MD, MSc is a rheumatology fellow at the Hospital for Special Surgery, in New York City with an interest in developing a career as a clinician investigator in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and health-related quality of life (HRQoL). In her current work, she studies whether frailty and sarcopenia, a degenerative loss of muscle mass and strength, could capture a vulnerable subset in SLE. She is particularly interested in using PROMIS measures to investigate HRQoL

Michiel Luijten, MSc is a PhD Student in psychometrics/clinimetrics at the Amsterdam UMC, the Netherlands. His thesis is about the implementation of PROMIS (CATs) in the Netherlands with the (electronic) PROM- portal KLIK that is used in more than 20 medical centers in the Netherlands. His research focuses on the application of PROMIS CATs, in clinical practice using visual feedback options to facilitate discussions of PROMIS assessments by clinicians with their patients during consultations.

Alexander Obbarius, MD is a resident and research fellow at the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine at Charitè University Hospital in Berlin, Germany, and a participant of the Health-Outcomes Research Working group since 2012. His primary research interests are self-reported assessment of chronic pain and the identification of subgroups of chronic pain patients by the use of patient-reported outcomes.