



## Meet the speakers and moderator for the Off the Beaten Path Panel

<p>Panel Moderator:</p> 	<p>Meet <a href="#">Caroline Goon, MS, MBA</a>! She is currently the Principal Strategist for the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Portfolio in the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).</p> <p>Caroline is an experienced higher education growth strategist, and prior to NIH, Caroline was the Assistant Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Marketing within Georgetown University Medical Center - Biomedical Graduate Education. Caroline was also the founding director of a specialized Career Strategy and Professional Development office that served 33 different biomedical graduate programs. In that capacity, she built on external relations and the creation of fresh programs/services to help students clarify their career goals, develop search strategies and pursue job/graduate opportunities.</p> <p>Caroline graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a B.S. in Biology, and a minor in Community Health. She then completed her M.S. in Biohazardous Threat Agents &amp; Emerging Infectious Diseases and her Master of Business Administration at Georgetown University.</p>
<p>Panelist:</p> 	<p>Meet Paul McClelland, MD! He was in the Peace Corps, teaching science in Tanzania. He is currently a PGY-3 Clinical Fellow, Surgery Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.</p> <p>“I am of mixed Caucasian-Asian descent and was born and raised in Bethesda, MD. My parents were both government employees: my father was (and still is) a physicist working for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and my mother was diagnostic radiologist working for the National Institutes of Health, now in private practice. When I was 12, I was diagnosed with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and subsequently underwent chemotherapy for a year—this had a significant impact on my childhood but also had the added effect of introducing me to the vibrant cancer survivor community. Luckily, I was declared cured at age 17, and I attended college at Wesleyan University starting in 2005. While there, I double majored in both physics and history, with additional classes in Chinese language. After graduating in 2009, I was not sure where I wanted to go next, so I joined the Peace Corps and moved to Tanzania in 2010.</p> <p>I lived in Songea, Tanzania from 2010 to 2013, during which time I was the only science teacher for 850 students at the magnet A-level all-boys school. The work was challenging but fulfilling: by the end of my time there, we were able to increase “college-acceptable” passing rates from 4% to 8% in physics and 11% to 23% in biology. I traveled extensively after my time in the Peace Corps, and at this point I have traveled to over 40 countries. Ultimately, I decided on a career in medicine due to my personal experience with cancer, and I matriculated into Weill Cornell Medical College in 2014. While there, I kept my connection with Tanzania and founded the “MAJI KWA AFYA” initiative, in which I partnered with NGO workers, local chieftains, and corporate/private donors to raise \$40,000 to install a decentralized solar water system in Shinyanga, Tanzania. For this, I received Honors in Service and my institution’s Prize in Public Health in 2018.</p> <p>After medical school, I decided to pursue a career in general surgery. I completed the first two years of my residency in New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, and I was an ICU resident and first responder during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020. To better integrate my dual fascination with cancer and surgery, I decided to apply for dedicated research time at the National Institutes of Health Surgical Oncology Program in Bethesda, MD, where I am currently working for the National Cancer Institute under the Surgery Branch. Please feel free to ask me anything!”</p>

Panelist:



Meet [Judie Kuo, MPS](#)! She is currently a Communications Director at Stonewater, LLC, a company that contracts for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She currently works as a contractor within the Division of Personnel Security and Access Control (DPSAC) NIH's Office of Research Services (ORS).

"I grew up in a Taiwanese-American deaf and hard-of-hearing household in Rockville, MD, not far from the NIH. Due to my upbringing and working experience, I cannot help but prioritize empathetic communication and building rapport through marketing and design in order to bring communities together. I speak three languages: American Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, and English. To pursue business, I went to the University of Maryland, College Park for undergrad, where I studied Marketing, and enjoyed doing Graphic Design for various school club activities and church activities, while juggling social media marketing internships and jobs. I was also grateful to have the opportunity to work with over 50 companies and be a fashion content creator to advertise for them on Instagram with over 15,000 followers.

After graduating, instead of going into business, I went on to be a Program Coordinator at Georgetown University Biomedical Graduate Education. Most recently, I became the Director of Recruitment and Partnerships, and had the opportunity to speak with students looking to pursue their passions. During this time, I pursued a Master's in Design Management and Communications at Georgetown University, graduating in August 2020. Although I have stopped being a fashion content creator back in undergrad, in 2018, I became a food content creator as a hobby, and marketed over hundreds of food businesses and local restaurants on Instagram, a few which you can check out on my [online portfolio](#).

After leaving Georgetown, I started in my current role in January 2021, as a contractor for the NIH. Currently, I advise the DPSAC office on how to efficiently communicate with their audiences and to have consistent content across all of their platforms with the goal of improving turnaround rates regarding background checks and creating a more positive user experience for their audiences. Outside of work, other than being a food content creator, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, family, friends, and my two dogs: Tobie who is a Jack Russell Chihuahua mix, and Klyde who is a Shiba Inu and Danish Spitz mix. I also love traveling and hiking, eating, drinking boba, watching crime shows and tons of action movies."

Panelist:



Meet [Arshya Gurbani](#)! She is currently a Health Specialist and Presidential Management Fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), NIH, in Durham, NC. She recently completed a 4-month developmental rotation with the Center for Global Health at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

"I was born and raised in Southern California, where my parents immigrated to from India in the early 90s. My parents are both pediatricians, and instilled in me at an early age that health and education are our most precious assets. That mindset has been the compass of my non-linear career trajectory.

I graduated with a BA in Biology and no certainty about where to take that training. Neither the clinical setting nor the laboratory called to me, and I was fortunate to be supported in pursuing an itch to teach. I loved being a teaching assistant, but, ultimately, couldn't stop thinking about the upstream factors and systemic inequities that were barriers to many of my students' ability to thrive. Paired with my science background, my desire for more training to advocate for change led me to a master's degree at UNC Chapel Hill, where I had the unique pleasure as a health communication student to split my time

between mass communication and public health coursework. Taking on research (from working on an HPV vaccination campaign to looking at trends in the comments section of New York Times health articles) and non-profit work (at a North Carolina based health leadership foundation) were pivotal in contextualizing my learning. It was a foundational two years--I began to see a possible career in public health that I didn't even have the vocabulary for a few years prior. When I graduated, I sought to find a job that might put to use my communications skills while continuing to broaden my understanding of what public health interventions look like, and how the infrastructures that support them run. I thought a federal level view might serve this goal well.

In researching the many fellowships at the CDC that were available for recent graduates, I was fortunate to learn of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), which connects students and recent graduates to STEM internships at over a dozen federal agencies. There were quite a few exciting opportunities on the ORISE job board, and I found a great placement within the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, where an extremely supportive mentor helped me center my fellowship around learning the basics of program evaluation. I worked on a variety of communication projects, and also had the chance to work with epidemiologists, both at the CDC and in states across the country. It convinced me (finally!), that I wanted to work towards becoming an epidemiologist myself. In my current role at NIEHS, I have been able to grow in my project management, data visualization, and evaluation thinking, and to take some courses in my free time. Looking forward, I'll be enrolling in a doctoral program in Epidemiology this Fall, and will continue to work with the federal government. I am grateful for all the support I've had on this winding journey off the beaten path, and very excited to hear what brought you to this virtual room!"