

People in Public Health

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I feel fortunate to have found that public health training and practice fits well with many of my interests. I've really enjoyed the variety of experiences on the road so far – both in the years prior to residency and the program itself.

I'm from Edmonton and attended the University of Alberta (for undergraduate studies in biological sciences and history as well as medical school). In addition to the formal training of med school, I learned a great deal from and was able to explore other interests in my role with the student association during a time of financial challenges for the university.



I completed my family medicine residency training at the 410 Sherbourne Street Clinic (with St. Michael's Hospital) in downtown Toronto. Some of the experiences during this time, including clinics at a homeless shelter and a brief elective in northern Ontario, have changed and shaped how I view clinical medicine. I currently work at a sexual health clinic in downtown Toronto a few half days a month and would consider perhaps doing more student health or palliative care clinical work in the future (although I hope for public health to be my main focus).

I moved to England in September 2014 for a one year master's program in Health Policy, Planning and Finance that was jointly administered by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the London School of Economics (LSE). I found this to be an amazing experience both personally (including a great opportunity to travel) and professionally. My dissertation was a qualitative study of family practices that had organized into networks in order to deliver better quality care.

Since returning to Canada in the fall of 2015, I have done rotations at the Halton Health Department, Public Health Ontario, and with Toronto Public Health. I'm looking forward to an elective in British Columbia this summer and a possible rotation with the World Health Organization Europe office in Copenhagen.

I'm still trying to work out what might come next work-wise after residency. I'm fascinated by health policy – in particular how public health and primary care intersect

as well as health workforce issues. I also have an interest in global health and am always interested in talking with others who have worked in this area.

My personal interests include reading (most recently, a novel called *Pereira Maintains* and a non-fiction book, *The Ward*, about downtown Toronto) and trying to decorate my home (not very successfully). I travel every few months to the UK and Europe at the moment. Previously, I used to camp and dirt bike in Alberta with my family – I hope to do more of this again in the future with friends.

I'm hoping to meet and get to know many more of the public health residents – feel free to get in touch any time (pawa@ualberta.ca)!