Bristol Myers Squibb – University of North Carolina (BMS–UNC) Global Health Economics and Outcomes Research (Global HEOR) Predoctoral Fellowship Program

2024–2026
Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop, and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases.

Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) is dedicated to transforming patients’ lives through science. With a broad product portfolio and robust pipeline in oncology, hematology, immunology, cardiovascular, fibrotic diseases, and neuroscience, BMS is pursuing therapies at the forefront of scientific discovery with the goal of bringing an exciting new generation of life-changing treatments to patients.

The Global Health Economics & Outcomes (Global HEOR) organization within BMS supports successful product reimbursement and patient access through the generation of real-world data and evidence that demonstrate the value of products.

Powered by talented individuals who drive scientific innovation, Global HEOR has developed industry-leading capabilities in non-interventional research, product launch strategy, and execution. The Global HEOR organization has expertise in real-world evidence generation, economic and predictive modeling, and patient-reported outcome assessment.
As a BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellow, you will have the opportunity to develop your experience and skills as a HEOR researcher alongside BMS experts in the field.

During the program, you will be provided with training on all aspects of value evidence generation and gain experience in how clinical, economic, and humanistic and results can be used to support product development, regulatory approval, and patient access. You will also have the opportunity to lead the management of at least two Global HEOR research projects, including co-authorship of the resulting scientific publications.

The practical experience and skills acquired in this program will prepare you for positions as a HEOR researcher in the pharmaceutical industry.

John O’Donnell, MPP, PhD
Senior Vice President, Global HEOR at Bristol Myers Squibb

“Thank you for your interest in our predoctoral fellowship program. We offer diverse therapeutic and functional opportunities to enhance your knowledge and skills with a commitment to invest in your growth and career development as a future HEOR leader.”
The BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral fellowship is offered for two* years, starting July 1, 2024, with annual reappointment unless otherwise indicated.

Fellows are expected to spend 20 hours per week on BMS-related activities, with the remaining time spent on dissertation-related work. During the year, fellows are expected to work on-site at BMS for 6 weeks during the summer and up to an additional 4 weeks during each funding year.

Activities during the program will include:

- Becoming familiar with the BMS company mission, history, processes, and products
- Completing a 90-day onboarding program and developing a fellowship plan in collaboration with your matched preceptor, BMS–UNC fellowship director, and your dissertation chair
- Participating in regular Global HEOR meetings
- Leading the management of at least two BMS research projects per year, including participating in all project meetings/teleconferences, and contributing to project team discussions and decision-making
- Completing therapeutic area and Global HEOR training modules, and additional training on Value, Access and Pricing
- Co-authoring at least one BMS-related publication per year
- Delivering at least one presentation per year relevant to a BMS project or dissertation to both the UNC department faculty and students and to BMS Global HEOR team members
- Regular tracking of progression towards your fellowship objectives, developmental goals, and dissertation completion with your mentoring team

* Although awards are typically made for up to two years with annual renewal, we can make accommodations for students who require only a single year of support.
Hui-Han Chen is a second-year BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellow supporting the Global HEOR Oncology team. He received his Master of Health Science (MHS) degree in Health Economics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD, and his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy (BS Pharm) from National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan.

Hui-Han has supported the Global HEOR oncology team across a spectrum of solid tumor cancers. He has collaborated cross-functionally with internal and external stakeholders at various stages of HEOR study lifecycle, such as evaluating study proposals, contracting with vendors, reviewing protocols and SAPs, ensuring the quality of deliverables, and disseminating study findings.

He has participated in various HEOR studies in alignment with the HEOR Strategic Imperatives and Integrated Evidence Plan to demonstrate the value of immuno-oncology and antibody-drug conjugates. His research projects have involved systematic literature review, indirect treatment comparison, patients-reported outcome analysis, economic modeling, and generation of real-world evidence.

Hui-Han is working towards his PhD in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy and is focusing his dissertation on understanding the real-world comparative safety, costs, and cost-effectiveness of generic imatinib in treating chronic myeloid leukemia using both SEER-Medicare and MarketScan Commercial Claims and Encounters Data.
Lauren Passero is a second-year BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellow supporting the Global HEOR Immunology team. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) with a major in economics at the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, where she first developed an interest in health economics research. After her undergraduate studies, Lauren worked for two years in pharmacy information technology services as an analyst and product manager for health plans and pharmacy benefit managers. Through this role, she developed a greater interest in pharmacoeconomic research to evaluate the costs and benefits of healthcare, particularly for precision medicine.

During her first year at BMS, Lauren has supported the Global HEOR immunology team with activities to support the launch of Sotyktu®, a new oral therapy for the treatment of psoriasis. This included supporting with literature reviews, protocol development, and research planning for future data needs.

Lauren is working towards her PhD in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy and is focusing her dissertation on the cost-effectiveness of population genetic screening for familial hypercholesterolemia, a common genetic condition that increases lifetime risk of cardiovascular disease.
Sam Eiffert is a first-year BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellow supporting the BMS US HEOR genitourinary cancer (GU) team. She received her BA in philosophy in 2013 from Creighton University and her Master of Public Health (MPH) from Emory University in 2015. She has prior work experience in analytical chemistry, environmental epidemiology, qualitative research, and pharmacoepidemiology.

During her time with the US HEOR Oncology GU team, Sam has contributed to several research projects and has had the opportunity to gain exposure to a variety of vendors, roles, data sources, and methods in the HEOR space, with studies focused on the use of BMS products as a single or dual agent first or second line therapy for treatment of kidney and bladder cancers. These projects have allowed Sam to gain hands-on experience with different types of HEOR studies beyond what was taught during classes, including indirect treatment comparisons, treatment sequencing models, patient reported outcomes, and economic modeling. She has supported the US HEOR GU team with protocol reviews, study planning, project management, research presentations, and strategic planning.

Sam is working towards her PhD in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy, with a concentration in pharmacoepidemiology. Her dissertation is about vaccine utilization patterns and predictors among older adults with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare neurological condition that can sometimes be triggered by vaccines.
Doyoung Kim is a first-year BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellow supporting the BMS Global HEOR Neuroscience and Immunology team. She holds a HBSc in Pharmacology and a MSc in Clinical Pharmacology from the University of Toronto, Canada. Prior to starting her PhD at UNC, Doyoung engaged in research projects in pharmacoepidemiology, clinical trials, clinical epidemiology, and patient-reported outcomes measurement. Additionally, she completed coursework and research projects related to health economic evaluation, gaining expertise in various roles within the field of HEOR.

During her first year at BMS, Doyoung has supported the Global HEOR Neuroscience and Immunology team on several disease areas, including Alzheimer’s disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and Eosinophilic Gastritis/Duodenitis. In this role, she has been involved in literature reviews, research planning, and presentations. This has included cross-functional collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders on a variety of projects, including indirect treatment comparisons, machine learning, identifying value drivers, data needs and gaps, and examining unmet needs using real-world data sources.

Doyoung is working towards her PhD in Health Policy and Management with a concentration in Decision Sciences and Outcomes Research.
Claire Su is a first-year BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellow supporting the BMS Global HEOR Oncology team. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics/Statistics from Carleton College and Master of Science degree in Biostatistics from UNC Chapel Hill. Prior to her graduate studies, she worked as a Data and Policy Analyst at Acumen LLC, where she leveraged claims data to study post-market vaccine safety and drug prescribing patterns within a regulatory context.

During her first year at BMS, Claire has supported the Global HEOR Oncology team in activities related to the launching of a new targeted therapy in thoracic cancer. This includes collaborating with internal and external stakeholders on real-world evidence generation, patient-reported outcome analyses, and economic modeling, with a focus on methodologic enhancements in disease incidence/prevalence estimates and surrogacy endpoints. She has also led efforts in project coordination with vendors, protocol, statistical analysis plans, deliverable review, and material development for cross-functional roundtable discussions.

Claire is working towards her PhD in Epidemiology with a concentration in pharmacoepidemiology. Her dissertation project will focus on evaluating and applying methods to transport the benefits of lung cancer screening from clinical trial to real-world populations in the US.
Previous BMS–UNC Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellows

Hadi Beyhagi, MD, MPH, PhD
Medical Director, Novavax Inc

Diana Chirovsky, MS, PhD
Senior Director, Global Outcomes Research, Merck

Danielle Chun, MPH, PhD
Associate Director, Global Evidence & Outcomes Research, Takeda

Matt Dixon, PharmD, PhD
Director, Global HEOR, Bristol Myers Squibb

Todd Durham, MS, PhD
Senior Vice President, Clinical & Outcomes Research, Foundation Fighting Blindness

Caroleen Drachenberg, BA, MSPH, PhD
Director, Health Economics & Outcomes Research, Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Anagha Gogate, MPH, PhD
Director, Global HEOR, Bristol Myers Squibb

Alessanda Garcia, MSc, PhD
Research Economist, RTI International

Neela Kumar, MPH, PhD
Director, Payer & Real-World Evidence, AstraZeneca

Nirosha Lederer, MSPH, PhD
Vice President, US Federal Government, Aetion

Sejin Lee, MBA, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Claire Lin, MS, PhD
Assistant Professor, National Taiwan University

Tsai-Ling Liu, MSPH, PhD
Data Scientist, Atrium Health

Joehl Nguyen, MPH, PhD
Senior Epidemiologist, Integrated Evidence Generation, Bayer

Sarah Pfleiderer, MSPH, PhD
Social Science Research Analyst, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Kate Sheahan, MPH, PhD
Senior Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation Advisor, John Snow Inc.

Swetha Srinivasan, MMB, PhD
Associate Director, Global HEOR, Research, Bristol Myers Squibb

Sydney Thai
Post-doctoral Fellow with CERobs Consulting LLC

Ellen Qian
Post-doctoral Fellow, Tufts Medical Center-GSK
BMS is now accepting applications for the 2024–2026 Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellowship Program.

Eligible UNC students are encouraged to apply prior to the application deadline of February 9, 2024.

Your completed application should be sent to Crystal Coleman and should include the following items:

- Completed application form
- Answers to the five questions detailed in the application form
- A copy of your National Institutes of Health biosketch
- A copy of your advisor’s National Institutes of Health biosketch
- A letter from your advisor including the information detailed in the application form

Successful applicants will be confirmed by mid-March 2024 and will start the fellowship program on July 1, 2024.

If you have any questions about the program, or the application form or process, please reach out to Dr. Betsy Sleath, Dr. Justin Trogdon or Dr. Til Stürmer.
Eligibility and Support

Eligibility

This fellowship is open to students who, by the date at which the fellowship begins, will have finished two years of PhD coursework and completed comprehensive exams with one of the following three UNC departments:

- Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy in the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
- Department of Health Policy and Management in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Department of Epidemiology in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

The ideal candidate should possess strong analytical skills, excellent written and verbal communication, good organizational abilities, and evidence of teamwork and leadership.

Support offered

While on-site at BMS, the cost of travel and housing is fully funded for the duration of the program, in addition to a per diem for meals and incidentals. The fellowship offers a competitive stipend and provides health insurance, tuition and fees, and a discretionary fund for conference travel, professional development, methodological training, software, and the purchase of books.
UNC–BMS Global HEOR Predoctoral Fellowship Leadership Team

BMS Leadership

John O’Donnell, MPP, PhD
Senior Vice President,
Global HEOR,
Bristol Myers Squibb

Matt Dixon, PharmD, PhD
Director, Global HEOR Oncology
and Global HEOR UNC–BMS
Fellowship Director,
Bristol Myers Squibb

UNC Leadership

Justin Trogdon, PhD
Professor, Department of
Health Policy and
Management

Director, PhD Program,
Department of Health
Policy and Management

Betsy Sleath, Ph.D.
Regional Associate Dean,
Eastern North Carolina

George H. Cocolas
Distinguished Professor,
Division of Pharmaceutical
Outcomes and Policy

Director of Child and Adolescent
Health Program,
Cecil G Sheps Center

Adjunct Professor,
Epidemiology

Adjunct Professor,
Health Policy Management

Til Stürmer, MD, MPH, PhD
Nancy A. Dreyer
Distinguished Professor
and Chair
Department of Epidemiology