

FASPE

Fellowships at
Auschwitz
for the Study of
Professional Ethics

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Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Chosen for FASPE Ethics Fellowship

Anish Kumar Joins Groundbreaking Program for Medical Students and Early-Career Physicians

New York, NY — **Anish Kumar, a Student of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**, is one of 14 medical students chosen for the 2023 Medical Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE).

Now in its thirteenth year of operation, FASPE provides a unique historical lens to engage graduate students in professional schools as well as early-stage practitioners in six fields (business, journalism, law, design & technology, medicine and seminary) in an intensive course of study focused on contemporary ethical issues in their professions.

The FASPE Medical Program offers an approach that differs from the usual classroom experience in medical schools or graduate bioethics programs by providing a holistic curriculum that looks beyond the specifics of formal rules to focus on ethical problems faced by individual doctors in the various settings in which they practice. Fellows participate in a two-week program in Germany and Poland, which uses the conduct of physicians in Nazi-occupied Europe as a way to reflect on medical ethics today.

Daily seminars are led by specialized faculty who engage fellows in discussions, encouraging critical thinking about both the historical and the contemporary. The Medical Program is strengthened by the diverse perspectives of its participants and its intense focus on the powers of place and context. The experience of the medical fellows is enhanced by traveling alongside the seminary and journalism fellows, who—in formal and informal settings—consider together how ethical constructs and norms in their respective professions align and differ.

“By educating students about the causes of the Holocaust and the power of their chosen professions, FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships,” said David Goldman, FASPE’s founder and chairman.

FASPE studies the perpetrators to emphasize the essential role of professionals and to ask how and why they abandon their ethical guideposts. The FASPE Medical Program examines the role of physicians and the medical profession more broadly during the Nazi period, underscoring the reality that moral codes governing doctors can break down or be distorted with devastating consequences. With this historical background, the medical fellows are better positioned to confront contemporary issues.

The 2023 Fellowship will take place in Germany and Poland in the summer (subject to health considerations). The Medicine Program will be led by Dr. Katherine Fischkoff, associate professor of surgery and critical Care at

Columbia University Medical Center, and by Dr. Mark Mercurio, professor of pediatrics and the director of the Program for Biomedical Ethics at Yale School of Medicine.

Anish Kumar is a medical student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is originally from New Jersey and attended college at the University of Pittsburgh, where he studied linguistics and Spanish. In Pittsburgh, Anish developed a passion for equitable healthcare for patients with limited English proficiency. Before matriculating to medical school, he worked as a data scientist, building tools to translate text between languages. He has a deep interest in the intersection of healthcare, technology, and artificial intelligence, and the relevant ethical considerations that they entail. In his free time, Anish loves to read, cook and photograph.

Kumar joins a diverse group of 84 FASPE fellows across all six programs who were chosen through a competitive process that drew applicants from across the U.S. and the world. FASPE covers all program costs, including travel, food and lodging.

FASPE maintains long-term relationships with its fellows in order to sustain commitment to ethical behavior and to provide a forum for continued dialogue. To date, FASPE has over 750 alumni.

To learn more about FASPE and its programs, visit www.faspe-ethics.org.

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