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## Implicit Bias Mask: The Pursuit of Knowledge

Brianna Regan

Wayne State University School of Medicine, gn7228@wayne.edu

Tareq Hanna

Wayne State University School of Medicine, go8933@wayne.edu

Thomas Deppong

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hg8699@wayne.edu

Maya Kohavi


Wayne State University School of Medicine, hk4759@wayne.edu

Zarin Kothari

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hl8457@wayne.edu

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Brianna Regan, Tareq Hanna, Thomas Deppong, Maya Kohavi, Zarin Kothari, and Ahmed Jafri

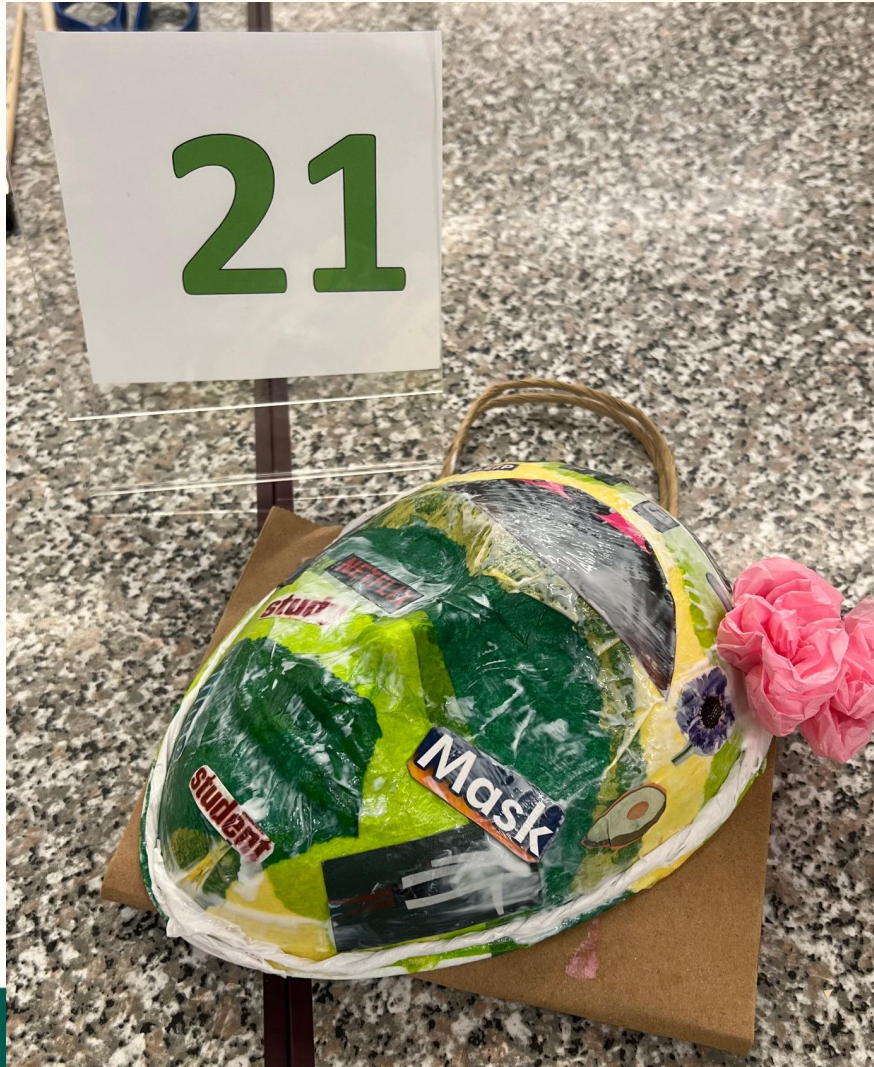
# The Pursuit of Knowledge

**Authors:** Kohavi, M., Kothari, Z., Deppong, T., Hanna, T., Regan, B., Jafri, A.

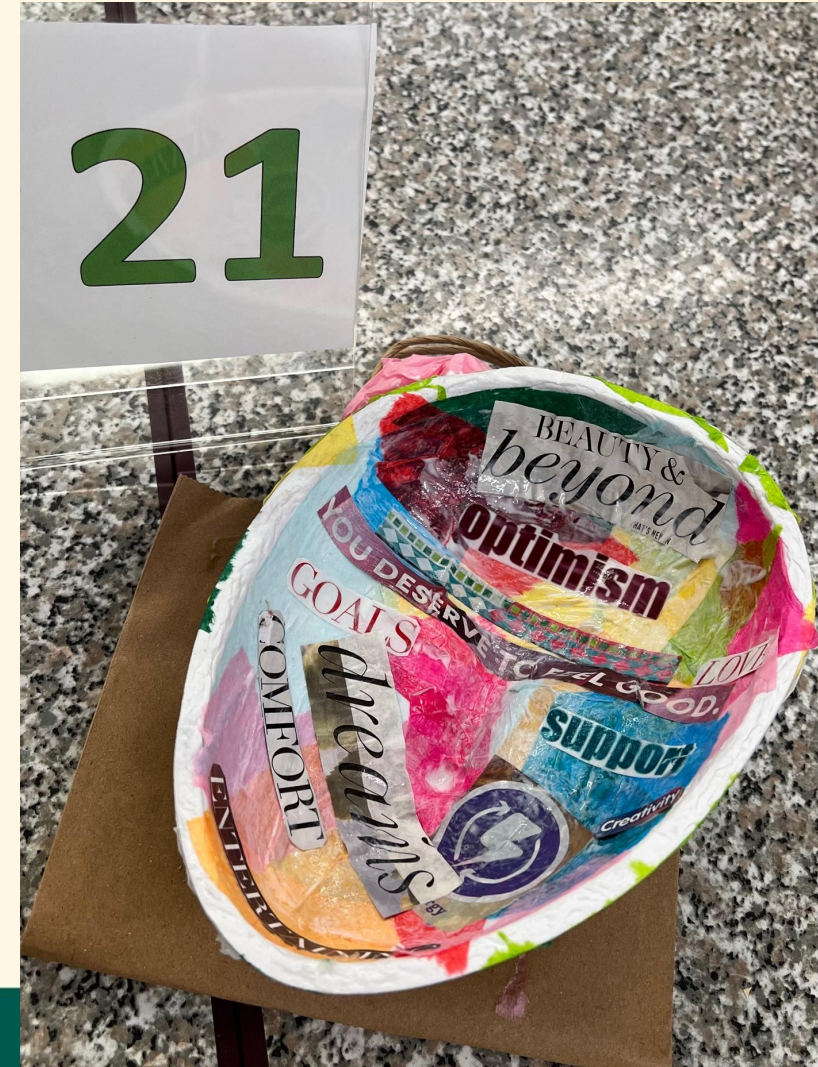
**Learning Community:** Green 21



## Outside Identity



## Inside Identity



## The outside of the mask:

- Our mask openly communicates our role as students particularly at Wayne State. We covered the outside of our mask in various shades of green, as this represents our various contributions to the school throughout our 4 years of education. Green also represents both Wayne State's colors and the color of our learning community. This resembles how other students and faculty see the 6 of us as a group.
- Our role is defined by our dedication to the pursuit of knowledge as well as serving and representing our community. The 6 of us had a common interest in Wayne State due to their commitment in community service and outreach. We hope to exemplify this mission throughout our careers as Wayne State medical students and as future physicians.
- Through our mask project, we explored commonalities between group members as well as what characteristics made us unique. For example, we included the "Netflix" logo on the front of our mask as we bonded over our favorite TV shows. In contrast, we included various cartoon images of physicians from different backgrounds and races to portray our various upbringings and cultural differences. We were also able to explore and consider how we as a group and individuals present ourselves to other members of our school and community. This is why we included the term "mask" boldly on the front, as sometimes we can be afraid to show our differences, talents, and dreams in a professional setting.
- We had the words "study" and "student" on the outside of our mask as representations of our role as medical students and the pursuit of the clinical and scientific knowledge that is important for being a physician and providing patient care.
- We also added some of our hobbies and interests outside of school such as watching Netflix, listening to music, and trying new foods. It can be easy to get caught up in the stress of being a medical student which makes it crucial to have different ways to relax.



# The inside of the mask:

- While we present ourselves as a collective group of Wayne State Medical students, internally we are all individual people and therefore colored the inside of our mask to reflect each of our favorite colors. As students, we can externally appear very stressed and overworked, but internally we feel very optimistic and excited to pursue our dreams and goals of acquiring deeper knowledge. Thus, we added the words “optimism”, “dreams”, and “goals” to reinforce our internal drive.
- Implicit biases are present in all of us and affect the way we think and work. As individuals pursuing higher education with the goal of helping others, we are limited in our ability to understand and empathize with others. An example of these biases as a physician could be assuming an individual is at fault for things like non-compliance when in reality, circumstances out of their reach are the root cause of *non-adherence*. It's also important to remember that patients may not always possess the breadth of medical knowledge that physicians would, and to not assume that they would already know how certain diseases, medications, and socioeconomic factors can affect them; therefore, patient education is crucial during practice.
- Conscious attitudes: It is important to be aware of others' unique upbringings, which affects each individual's actions and perspectives of the world. Listening is important in this situation, and you want to ensure that you are aware of your own biases to make sure they do not affect the way you listen to and understand others.
- Professional identity Formation reflects each of our lived experiences and will continue to change throughout medical school and our careers. Knowledge is never-ending and there will always be learning gaps to fill as a medical student, resident, physician, and person as a whole. Increasing knowledge also comes from increased experiences in interacting with others. These interactions with others can also help us understand ourselves and form our identities, which can also constantly change throughout life.

