

# Lisel Hope, MD, MPH

## Concentration: Health Policy & Management

### What brought you to the field of Public Health?

As a physician, I have always been interested in health. My job allows me to propose interventions on an individual level while taking care of my patients. However, I wanted more. The field of public health enables me to develop interventions that affect entire populations instead of one individual at a time. I was excited by the prospect of having a greater influence in the field of medicine.



### What made you choose SUNY Downstate?

I chose SUNY Downstate for several reasons. Its location is very convenient to my job since I practice at Kings County Hospital Center and SUNY Downstate. The program is also very accommodating of working professionals. It was a real benefit to be able to pursue my degree without having any significant conflicts with my current busy work schedule. I was also inspired by the stories of some colleagues who completed the program and were very satisfied by the quality of the faculty and training they received in public health. Lastly, the cost of tuition was very affordable and manageable. I was even able to pay it out of pocket.



### Could you tell us about your fieldwork?

My fieldwork was the development of a non-profit 501c3 organization called the Caribbean Diabetes Initiative. This is a three tiered program that carries out an annual Diabetes Health Care Symposium on different islands in the Caribbean. The program involves community-based diabetes education, community-based screening and treatment for diabetes and hypertension, as well as continuing diabetes education seminars for local health care providers in the Caribbean. The goal of this program is to improve diabetes awareness, management and treatment in the Caribbean

islands as well as decrease the risk of diabetes complications in these communities.

### How has studying at SUNY Downstate prepared you for a career in Public Health? What kind of work do you hope to do after completing your Public Health degree at Downstate?

Studying at SUNY Downstate has provided me with a strong foundation in the practice of public health, and has helped me develop the skills needed for understanding health care policy and becoming a strong leader in the area of Health Care Management. After the completion of my degree, I hope to become more involved in health care administration. I also hope to continue to develop health intervention programs to increase disease awareness, prevention and management in communities in the United States and abroad.