I wrote this paper for Dr. Allen Matusow’s POST 201 class, entitled “Baker Institute Introduction to Public Policy.” I enrolled in POST 201 as soon as I decided to add a second major in policy studies, knowing that this class recruited Baker Institute Fellows to present on topics of their expertise such that each day covered a new policy field. As such, I was exposed to a wide variety of political arenas, ultimately choosing to write my final paper about global health policy.

One of the unique traits of POST 201 was the requirement that each final paper be written under the supervision of a Baker Institute Fellow, so having chosen global health and vaccine diplomacy, I contacted the foremost expert in the field: Dr. Peter Hotez, President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute. From there, I explained my interest in writing about U.S. – Iran vaccine diplomacy given my heritage as an Iranian-American, after which he directed me toward several resources, many of which could be accessed through Fondren Library. For example, when researching some of the more biomedical aspects of vaccines or public health briefs, I needed access to comprehensive medical databases, like PubMed. Luckily, Fondren provided me with access to the large majority of publications that I needed. Much to my surprise, I was even able to access incredibly obscure journals such as the *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran* or the *DARU Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*. However, Fondren’s resources are not limited to those of the natural sciences, because I was also able to access a variety of materials that were more science policy-oriented, such as *Science* from the AAAS. Being able to access such a diverse array of resources from Fondren made the research that went into this paper proceed smoothly and efficiently.

In addition to my more “traditional” literature-based research, I also supplemented with phone-interviews with some leaders in the field of science diplomacy, such as Nobel Laureate Peter
Agre. Conversations with individuals such as Dr. Glenn Schweitzer of the National Academies added another dimension to my research that complemented my readings and allowed me to explore the literature more intensely. In fact, I only called Dr. Schweitzer after reading his book, *U.S.-Iran Engagement in Science, Engineering, and Health (2000-2009): Opportunities, Constraints, and Impacts*, which gave me the opportunity to question him about some of the more esoteric components of his argument.

By combining a variety of research sources such as medical journals, policy briefs, news articles, and interviews, among others, I was able to synthesize a paper with novel policy recommendations about an increasingly relevant topic. However, none of it would have been possible without Fondren’s resources and access to a slew of research sources. For that, Fondren Library has my utmost thanks.