



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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Medical Scientist Training Program

August 2018

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contact: OSU MSTP
1072 Graves Hall
333 W. 10th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 292-7790
mdphd@osumc.edu



A Welcome and an Introduction

*by Tamar L. Gur, MD, PhD,
Associate Program Director*

I am happy to welcome our talented and outstanding incoming class: Jerry Cui, Kyleigh De Petro, Jasmine Tuazon, Olga Golubeva, Rebecca Glowinski, Wesley Wang, Dmitry Malyshka, Akila Venkataramany, Ilse Hernandez Aguirre, and Lauren Otto. Congratulations on embarking on the most satisfying and rewarding career path I know of- that of a Physician-Scientist. On behalf of the MSTP leadership, we are thrilled to be participating in your transformation into future leaders in Science and Medicine, and look forward to travelling with you on this rewarding journey.

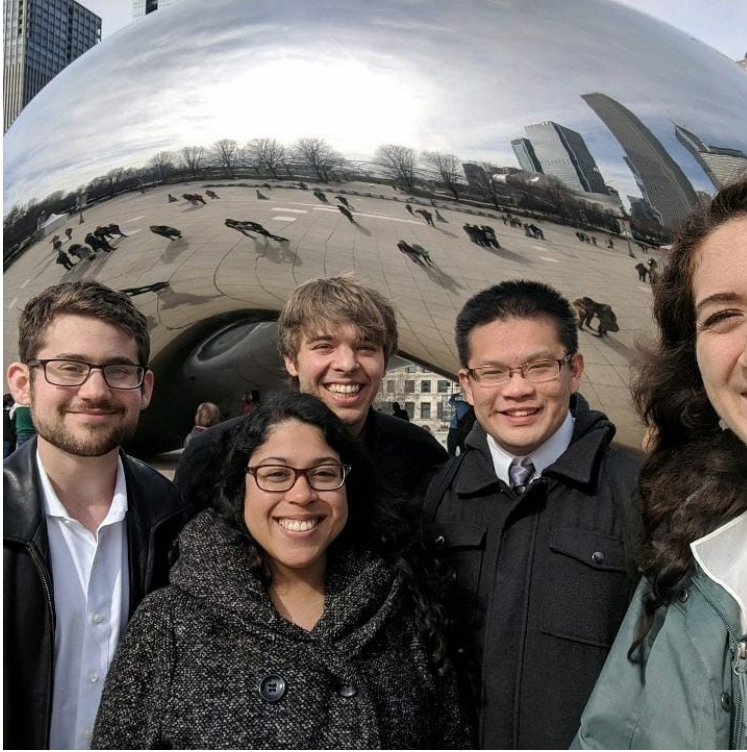
I actually have a lot in common with this incoming class, since I am also starting a new chapter, that of Associate Director of the OSU MSTP program. I am most looking forward to getting to know each student, as well as working alongside Dr. Kirschner and Ashley Bertran. The memories of my own days as an MSTP student are still bright and fresh in my mind, and I hope to add the perspective I've gained by being a Physician-Scientist to help craft curriculum and experiences that will assist and guide the current and future members of this phenomenal program.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the daughter of two scientists, my own path to becoming a Physician-Scientist started at around one year of age, when my 4th word was "proposal", as my parents were in the process of submitting a large grant. I continued down this path in the fall of my Freshman year at Brown University, when I fell in love with the action potential, and deepened when I started doing Alzheimer's disease research in the lab of Drs. John Trojanowski and Virginia Lee at the University of Pennsylvania that summer. I enrolled in the MSTP program at Penn in the Fall of 2001, completing my PhD in Neuroscience in the lab of Dr. Julie Blendy. My research was focused on the role of CREB in neurogenesis in response to antidepressant treatment, and solidified my interest in both the molecular underpinnings of behavior and in Psychiatry as a clinical specialty. I was a Psychiatry Resident in the Clinical Research Scientist track at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, which allowed me to hone my research interest, under the mentorship of Dr. Neill Epperson, into Perinatal Psychiatry.

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APSA Annual Meeting

By Steven Sher

2018 commemorated the 14th year for the American Physician Scientist Association (APSA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. This meeting, held in conjunction with the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and the Association of American Physicians (AAP), serves to foster the development of future physician scientists and bridge the gap between individuals at all levels of their training. This year was of specific significance to the members in attendance from The Ohio State University College of Medicine as it was the first year of the Local Chapter being reformed by the 2017 MSTP entering class.

In attendance were Steven Sher, Ariunaa Bayanjargal, Megan Pino, Daniela Jimenez-Harrison, Zheng-Hong Tan, Christopher Ayoub, Rachel Brown, Max Yano, Ellen Lubbers, Eileen Hu, Jillian Liu, Jason Siu, and Seemab Ali. Highlights from this year's meeting included a number of talks on aging and cancer. Outside of the research talks there were several breakout sessions including panels on policy, diversity, and alternative career paths. At the beginning of these discussions there was a mentorship breakfast where several of the students in attendance had the opportunity to sit with physician-scientists whose careers were larger than life, including Dr. David G. Nathan the former president of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For the APSA students, the ceremonies concluded with a dinner of all the members in attendance and a moving speech on career development by the Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Julianne Bubeck Wardenburg.

Although I was only a first-year medical student at the time of this meeting I cannot stress enough the impact that this conference had on us as individuals and as an organization. The development of physician-scientists during their training is strengthened by events such as this, where like-minded students are able to meet and discuss science, policy, and ethics. In addition to being able to meet with residency directors on the final day, students have the opportunity to submit abstracts and posters for presentation to further their scientific endeavors.

For anyone who is interested in submitting a poster to next year's annual meeting, becoming a member of APSA, or getting more involved with APSA leadership please feel free to contact myself or Ariunaa Bayanjargal at steven.sher@osumc.edu and ariunaa.bayanjargal@osumc.edu, respectively.

A Welcome and an Introduction

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I accepted a faculty position here upon completion of my residency training in 2013, and have been a proud Buckeye ever since. My research program is focused on Prenatal Stress, and the contribution of the intrauterine environment and maternal microbiome to neurodevelopment and behavior in the offspring. I enjoy the transdisciplinary nature of my work, and while studies to date have been in mouse models, we are currently launching investigations in women. Clinically, I treat women suffering from anxiety and depression in the perinatal time period, and one of the most rewarding aspects of my job is when they overcome their struggles and bring their happy, healthy babies in to the office. I look forward to having new treatment options to offer them, which is a prime motivation to me every day.

Another big motivation to me now is getting to know the ins and outs of this fantastic program, and helping it soar to even greater heights. So please, if you see me on campus please do introduce yourself to me, I'd love to get to know you and hear your thoughts and insights. Go Buckeyes!

- Tamar Gur



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THE INTERVIEW



Matt Lordo: Can you tell me about yourself (i.e. where you grew up, college, etc.) and what brought you to OSU?

Donald Parsons MD, PhD: I grew up in Columbus (attending Upper Arlington High School) as a die-hard Buckeye fan. Both of my parents were Economics faculty at OSU. After college (chemistry major at Princeton) I came back to Columbus for medical school and graduate school.

ML: What are you doing now, career-wise?

Dr. P: I am a pediatric oncologist at Texas Children's Hospital (Baylor College of Medicine, BCM) in Houston, Texas. Most of my time is spent conducting translational and clinical research that seeks to improve the care of childhood cancer patients, focusing primarily on the clinical application of genomic technologies. For example, I was the principal investigator of the BASIC3 study (2011-2017), an NHGRI and NCI-funded U01 Clinical Sequencing Exploratory Research (CSER) program project involving clinical exome sequencing of tumor and blood specimens from children with newly-diagnosed solid tumors and am now helping to lead the follow-up KidsCanSeq study (which includes clinical genomic analysis of patients from multiple Texas institutions) as part of that same consortium. I also currently serve as the Children's Oncology Group (COG) study chair for the NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH study, the first nationwide precision oncology clinical trial for children with relapsed and refractory solid tumors, lymphomas, and histiocytoses that opened in July 2017. My lab is also engaged in a number of sequencing studies of high-risk and rare pediatric cancers with goals of revealing tumor biology, identifying potential molecular targets for therapy, and facilitating pre-clinical characterization of novel therapeutics.

Administratively, I lead the Precision Oncology Program at Texas Children's and am the Co-Director of the Neuro-Oncology Program and the Cancer Genetics & Genomics Program. Most recently, I've recently taken over leadership (with Carl Allen, MD PhD, another OSU MSTP program graduate) of the BCM Pediatrician-Scientist Training and Development residency program.

ML: What factors helped you choose your medical and research specialty?

Dr. P: I was assigned to the hematology-oncology service as one of my first clinical med school rotations and was lucky to work with a team that got me excited about the specialty (including Drs. Mark Ranalli, Wendy Stevens, and Melissa Parsons). Going into the rotation I had no intention of specializing in pediatrics or hematology-oncology; after the month I knew that was what I was going to do. I found I enjoyed taking care of children (and families) and was fascinated by the genetics and biology of cancer, and excited about the potential to improve patient outcomes based on our emerging understanding of the genetic basis of pediatric cancers. My PhD research, co-mentored by Drs. Thomas Prior and Arthur Burghes, focused on the genetics of the neurogenetic disorder spinal muscular atrophy. Based on my clinical and personal interest in oncology, I made the switch to studying cancer genetics instead.

ML: Can you describe your typical work-week?

Dr. P: That's a tough question! I'm fortunate to have a lot of variety in my work life. I travel 2-3 times per month to

scientific conferences or to give talks so am often working from the road. A typical day in Houston might include a couple hours of conference calls (related to our ongoing clinical trials or planning collaborative projects), a lab meeting, a conference (neuro-oncology or genomics tumor board), a couple hours of project meetings with our team, a couple hours of administrative meetings, and a meeting with one of my trainees (residents, fellows, post-docs, grad students). A few questions or consults about molecular testing or potential treatment options for one of our patients (I do not have defined clinical responsibilities beyond directing our Precision Oncology Consultation Service). Hopefully some time to look at project data or edit a paper. In general that sort of work needs to get done early or late or on weekends. Many e-mails.

ML: Do you have any advice for MSTP students who are just starting?

Dr. P: Most importantly, find an enthusiastic research mentor and environment that will work for you. The specific disease to be studied and research focus are much less important (presuming that it is something you and your mentor are excited about).

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The Interview (Continued)

Carefully consider potential clinical specialties and their implications for future balancing of your research and clinical activities as well as your life outside of work.

ML: How about advice for our graduating students who are joining the real world?

Dr. P: Finding a mentor (or mentors) as a resident/fellow/new faculty member is just as critical as when you're starting the MSTP. I was lucky to find fantastic mentors, both in the lab and the clinic (and eventually in administration/leadership as well) at every step of my training and faculty career.

ML: Can you touch on the importance of business knowledge when running a lab?

Dr. P: There are many practical aspects to running a lab that are not generally well taught and need to come from experience: writing grants, planning budgets, dealing with personnel/HR issues etc. Developing these skills is critical. I've learned everything I know in these areas from watching and learning from others and not being afraid to ask questions. And making more than a few mistakes.

ML: What are some of the biggest challenges you have faced during your training and career?

Dr. P: By far my biggest challenge is managing my time. I could easily fill up a work day that was twice as long (if I had the energy for it). Balancing family/personal time with clinical, research, and administrative responsibilities remains a delicate balancing act.

ML: What is your advice for maintaining work/life balance?

Dr. P: I prefer to just think of it all as life. Becoming a physician-scientist is a complex career path – it is a constant challenge to prioritize the multiple aspects of the job (research, clinic, administration, etc) let alone personal and family life.

On the other hand, that complexity is a key part of why it is a great job! I'm fortunate to play a role in multiple exciting research projects that focus on diverse aspects of pediatric cancer and have the potential to change (for the better) how we take care of our patients. In terms of balance, I try to identify the tasks, activities, and events that are most urgent and/or important to me and prioritize them above all else, then figure out how to make everything else work. Having significant flexibility to strategize and plan much of my schedule is a real positive of this line of work.

ML: What is your favorite part of being a physician-scientist?

Dr. P: I enjoy being a member of diverse multi-disciplinary teams that work together toward a single goal (improving the care of childhood cancer patients) and having the opportunity to work on (and lead) projects that are very important to me.

ML: Looking back at your experiences, would you change or do anything differently?

Dr. P: None

ML: Any final pieces of advice MSTP students should consider as they progress through the program?

Dr. P: Although they can be challenging, your years in the MSTP are great ones. Make sure to enjoy them!

Neff Endowment to the MSTP

We are proud to announce that two former faculty members have made a gift that will afford our students opportunities to broaden their academic experience via two key avenues.

The Dr. Norton H. Neff and Dr. Maria H. Neff Medical Scientist Training Program Endowed Fund will support an annual travel award to allow MSTP students to present their research at national and international conferences. Additionally, the fund will support a biennial seminar program that will bring expert speakers in the field of basic and clinical neuropsychopharmacology to the College of Medicine, a benefit to all OSU MD, PhD students.

We thank Drs. Neff for their generous support of these programs.

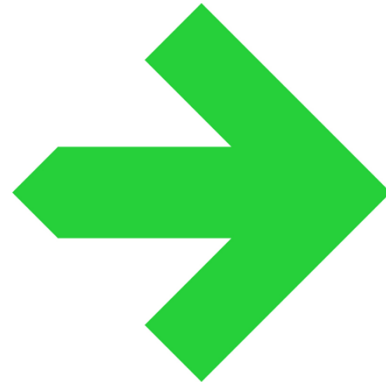


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By Ken Okoye



This year I had the honor of being a co-captain for the OSUCOM student Pelotonia team: Buckeye Student Riders - Spin Doctors. This year, nine members of the OSU MSTP rode in Pelotonia, with four of us riding for the Spin Doctors. All nine of us are returning riders, and among us are three Pelotonia Fellows. At the time of this writing, we've raised over \$5,100 for life-saving cancer research at the James Comprehensive Cancer Center with more than a month left of fundraising to go. These figures include participation and funds raised by our fearless leader, our very own MSTP Director Larry Kirschner (aka "the Kirsch"). I actually owe my decision to take the plunge and ride in my first Pelotonia in 2016 to Dr. K when he urged me to do it after I rode my bike to MSSO. If not for the OSU MSTP, I might never have gotten involved. How different things might have been!

Thanks to an unexpected and particularly aggressive Team Buckeye rider recruitment campaign and my involvement with the OSUCOM team as co-captain, I unexpectedly found myself being known as "Mr. Pelotonia." If you weren't seeing my face on banners, posters, websites, or murals around campus buildings and shuttles, then you were at minimum seeing my face attached to the multiple emails I sent throughout the season. In previous years, Pelotonia was something I 'did,' this year, it became something I 'was.' In my previous years, I always had a story, and it displayed prominently on my fundraising profile online. But this year was different, I was encouraged to tell it far more often, among other captains in meetings, or each time I was trying to recruit a new rider. I learned so much about Pelotonia and its history, what goes on behind the scenes, who's running the show at various levels or just impassioned people who are heavily involved, especially with Team Buckeye. I always felt like I was part of something big, but this time I really felt like part of the Pelotonia family by not just sharing my story, but by hearing so many others. It sounds trite, but it has been both an honor and a privilege. Pelotonia might not have changed that drastically over just three years, but my perspective on it has radically shifted. It's now a part of my identity, and as I continue to take part, I can only hope that in a microscopic but tangible way, I can be a part of Pelotonia's impact.



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Thank You for the White Coats!

By Matt Lordo

It is a time-honored tradition at OSU that incoming medical students are welcomed into the medical community by receiving their White Coat. The College of Medicine solicits donations from alumni to provide each student with a coat, and the MSTP invites alumni to donate a coat specifically to an incoming MD/PhD student. We hope that receiving this coat from an MSTP alumnus will provide an early connection to our training community. Upon receiving his or her white coat, the student writes a note or makes a phone call to say thank you, and we hope this enables Ohio State MD/PhDs to connect with one another and initiate a mentoring relationship.

To ensure your donation matches a coat to an MSTP student please contact mdphd@osumc.edu. In addition to the White Coat Sponsorship Program, the MSTP offers several other options to support many of its programs.

This year, OSU MSTP alumni Chadwick Wright, MD, PhD and Richard Wardrop, MD, PhD have once again generously donated funds to sponsor white coats for the entire MSTP entering class. Thank you, Drs. Wright and Wardrop!



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WELCOME CLASS OF 2018!

Jerry Cui



I was born in Vancouver, Canada but grew up in Charlotte, NC. I graduated from Yale University in 2016 with a joint BS/MS in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry (that's one major). As an undergrad, I was lucky enough to be part of an HHMI-funded course which took us to the Ecuadorian Amazon to collect plant samples from which we isolated fungal endophytes. My own research (and master's thesis) focused on the discovery of novel antibiotic and antitumor compounds from said endophytes. Though I didn't pursue the follow-up work, preliminary sequencing suggests that I discovered several new genera (or higher orders) of fungi.

After graduation, I spent a summer at a primate research facility in St. Kitts, where I assisted with efforts to create stem cell lines before moving to Boston to continue working in antibiotic discovery as a research technician for Dr. Kim Lewis.

I intend to continue working in natural product drug discovery, and my dream is to fulfill the cliché of bringing a compound from bench to bedside.

Fun Fact: outside of the lab, I enjoy reading, cooking (I worked in two pop-up restaurants while in college), and attempting to write (I'm eyeing Nature Futures as a way to say I've been published in Nature).

Kyleigh DePetro



I grew up in central California and moved to Los Angeles, CA upon matriculating to UCLA in 2011. I pursued my undergraduate studies in Physiological Science while also working as a 9-1-1 Emergency Medical Technician. I conducted neuromuscular research, with Dr. V. Reggie Edgerton, Ph.D., investigating mechanisms underlying recovery of voluntary locomotion after anatomically incomplete spinal cord injury. I graduated with a B.S. in spring 2015 and pursued an M.S. in Integrated Biology and Physiology from 2015 to 2017 where I continued research in the field of spinal cord injury. I spent 3 years as a Teaching Associate for undergraduates in various courses in physiology including cardiology, nephrology, neurology, and pulmonology. My current research interest is in neuroscience focused on neurodegeneration and the development of, and mechanisms underlying, therapeutics used to restore function. I'm inspired by the association between disease-mediated anatomical and functional changes. In the past, I have enjoyed surfing and snowboarding. I value fitness and look forward to working out. In my free time I sew various items including dog (and cat) bowties and bandanas. I also sew clothing and household decor items such as pillows, curtains, and blankets. I'm decent at multitasking, not excluding Netflix and the multiwindow feature in Mac. I have a 1 y/o mini labradoodle, Harper, and a 4 y/o feline child, Stella. I enjoy going out to eat and trying new types of cuisine. I'm happy to be here and look forward to everything to come.

Fun fact: I'm spending the first 2 weeks of medical school hopping AirBnBs with Lauren until our lease starts 8/18. *Kind of fun, kind of not fun.*



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Rebecca Glowinski



I grew up in the DC area and was fortunate enough to start working at The NIH after school during my junior year of high school, doing research on autoimmune diseases and the pathogenesis of opportunistic infections. It was here that I first met MD-PhD researchers, and realized that if I didn't necessarily have to choose between clinical practice and research. I went to undergrad at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, where I majored in biomedical engineering and minored in mathematics. While at Hopkins, I tried my hand at computational research before realizing that I really missed the infectious disease wet-lab research I had previously done. My junior year I joined a lab in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, studying the immune response to central nervous system alphavirus infections. While I like everything relating to infectious diseases, my research interests are more specifically around virology and the host responses to viral infections. When I'm not in lab, I enjoy reading, drawing, running, and baking/eating/finding new recipes. I'm especially excited to try new restaurants in the Columbus area, and always welcome any restaurant suggestions!

Fun Fact: I know how to do fire poi

Olga Golubeva



My journey to becoming an MD/PhD student has not been traditionally linear. I was born in the USSR (currently Belarus, a small post-Soviet country in Eastern Europe). About ten years ago, I moved to Florida, where I attended University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa and graduated with a BA in psychology. Due to my interest in psychology and the social aspect of disease, I spent a semester interviewing patients as a cancer genetic counseling intern. Drawing pedigrees during interviews, I became astounded at a devastating pattern of familial disease that one genetic mutation was capable of triggering. Moreover, forming relationships with the returning patients ignited my wish to personally help by exploring cancer on a molecular level. I joined a cancer genomics lab led by Dr. Alvaro Monteiro at Moffitt Cancer Center, where I spent four years investigating mechanisms of cancer predisposition, carcinogenesis and therapeutic pathways. I helped classify rare genetic variants in BRCA1 and CHEK2 based on their role in predisposition to hereditary breast cancer. I also studied the mechanism of action of a WEE1-inhibitor AZD1775 in lung cancer. During my gap years, I also served as a clinical volunteer for Florida Hospital and a tutor to at-risk youth. My experiences in the laboratory, clinical and teaching settings have driven me to pursue a combined MD/PhD degree. I have a strong interest in medical genetics and cancer biology, and I am excited to develop expertise in these areas during my MSTP training here at OSU. My boyfriend, his two kids and our four pets (three cats and a dog) have been my biggest supporters. All of them have moved with me to Ohio, and we look forward to a new exciting adventure in Columbus.

Fun Fact: In my free time, I enjoy traveling and trying out exotic cuisines, learning new recipes, and decorating for holidays. I am also into rock music, karaoke, cross stitching and boxing for fitness.



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Ilse Hernandez-Aguirre

I was born and partially raised in a small town named Delicias in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. When I was nine years old, my family and I moved to El Paso, Texas, and have lived there since then. I attended the University of Texas at El Paso where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology. During my undergraduate years, I worked in a lab studying *M. tuberculosis* and *M. leprae*. I also had the privilege of studying dengue and Zika viruses at Harvard Medical School as part of Harvard's Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program. My fascination with bacteria and viruses began early in high school for me but taking an anatomy class my senior year in high school drove me to question what I wanted my career to focus on. Towards the end of my undergrad years I learned it was possible to focus on both research and medicine, so I decided to pursue an MD/PhD. I took a gap year, in which I was a substitute teacher. I would cover all grades and subjects, but I enjoyed helping in special education classrooms the most. I enjoy reading and exploring the city I live in.

Fun Fact: I love to sing and dance so I'm always up for karaoke or salsa dancing!



Dmitry Malyshka

I was born and raised in the country of Belarus, one that is much more rural than most of the United States, before moving to the United States at the age of 10. I went to high school in the Philadelphia area, and I stuck around Philadelphia for undergrad at Drexel University. After my first year, I joined a research lab that worked on exploring the structural dynamics of cytochrome c on mitochondrial membranes and their role in apoptosis. Falling in love in research pretty much immediately, I applied for an accelerated BS/MS degree and graduated four years later with a Master's in Physical Chemistry. In the meantime, I was volunteering at hospitals and shadowing physicians, gaining an interest in becoming a doctor. I took one gap year after graduating during which I worked full-time in a toxicology department of a medical lab while doing research at the same Drexel lab in the evenings and on the weekends.

My current research interests are in applying biophysical methods and approaches to studying the molecular basis of disease, with neurodegenerative diseases being a particular interest. As for things outside the lab, I really like cooking, (binge) watching series and movies, playing chess, watching sports (Go Flyers and Eagles!), hanging out with friends, traveling, and playing occasional video games. My favorite cuisines are German and Slavic, but I am always excited to try new foods (and beer)!

Fun Fact: my Russian accent comes out when I have had a few drinks





Lauren Otto

I grew up in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania and attended Bucknell University majoring in Cell Biology and Biochemistry. My interest in research started during an internship at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute with a project focused on microRNA regulation of stem cell development and aging. I explored my interest in pediatrics with a summer at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. I worked on a project to elucidate the role of phosphorylation of PAGE-4, a WNT signaling regulator. To gain more exposure to developmental biology, I interned with the National Cancer Institute and worked on a bone development project to understand how the transcription factor Stat3 may be regulating chondrocyte development and differentiation. My current interests are in the spread of and possible interventions in childhood diseases. I love the outdoors and am excited to experience what Columbus has to offer.

Fun Fact: During my time at Bucknell, I participated and led outdoor orientation trips for freshmen and joined the Army ROTC program.

Jasmine Tuazon

After eighteen happy years of eating Cincinnati Skyline chili and Graeter's ice cream, I packed up for Baylor University and got the quintessential college experience—the perfect stakeouts with my friends in Moody Library, the perfect 2 AM adventures to Wherever (but most frequently Taqueria Zacatecas), the perfect biochemistry professor who had his house built by Chip and Joanna Gaines (see: Fixer Upper, Season 1, Episode 6), and the perfect vision of my future medical career (“good hours, patients aren't always dying”—whatever that noise means).



However, I was thrown a career curveball in Fall 2016: poised to embark on a pre-health study abroad in the Netherlands, I was festering a resistance toward this mandatory and ‘pointless’ Global Health course on my schedule. Yet, after a week class, I felt for the first time “a calling”—to empower those who were born into impoverished circumstances that burdened their livelihood by targeting infectious diseases and public health inequalities. Several times throughout that semester, I huddled around quaint little tables in Dutch coffee shops with my professors, a married pair sporting an MD-PhD and a PhD. The more we talked about their global health research and service efforts, the more I resolved to pursue a dual degree, which would allow me to stay heavily involved in the humanity that was important to me through a practical, creative angle that explicit research training would best enable.

Upon graduating from Baylor in 2017, I sought to develop my knowledge about preventative and therapeutic design that could one day be translated to infectious disease models. I took a gap year to build my skills in immunology research at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where I studied natural killer cells in various murine and human contexts, mainly looking at their cytotoxicity and migration into lymphatic tissue causing subsequent regulation of T and B cells in response to different vaccines or during viral infection in lupus and IBD models. At OSU, I am interested in pursuing research that involves a combination of immunology, infectious disease, and zoonosis in a way that can translate into vaccines or therapeutics for poverty-related diseases.

Fun fact: Two other careers I was deciding between during my freshman and sophomore years of college besides physician scientist were 1) journalist, as I loved the social justice of sharing people's stories, and 2) police officer, as my dad is one and I liked the thought of action-packed justice.



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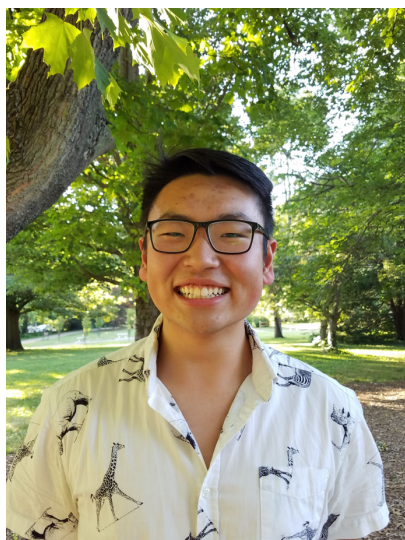
Akila Venkataramany



I was born in Miami Beach, Florida, but I spent the majority of my childhood in Ashland, OH, a small town about 75 minutes north of Columbus. I attended Cornell University and graduated in Spring 2018 with my undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences, with areas of emphasis in molecular and cell biology and infectious disease biology through my minor. While my passion for medicine, specifically pediatrics, has been longstanding for several years, my interest in pursuing research evolved over time. I began working in an RNA crystallography lab at the University of Oklahoma in high school, and I continued my project over an additional three summers. At Cornell University, I spent three years developing my honors thesis project, where I studied 3' UTR length in mammalian mRNAs and its effect on post-transcriptional gene regulation in a sequence-independent manner. After I did a summer internship in a lab studying pre-eclampsia at Harvard Medical School, the role of research in medicine became more apparent to me, and I was excited by the prospect of investigating complex scientific problems within the clinical context of pediatrics. As I progress through the MD/PhD program here at Ohio State, I plan to explore my current research interests in RNA biology, cancer biology, and neurodegenerative diseases. Simultaneously, I hope to be engaged in my hobbies, which include playing my violin, reading, and participating in Asha Cornell (a Cornell University student organization with which I was significantly involved that supports the education of underprivileged children in India).

Fun Fact: I have been learning Bharatanatyam, an Indian classical dance form, for the past 15 years.

Wesley Wang



I was born in Minnesota; however, I grew up in both Virginia and Kansas. Wanting to get away from farms, I decided to go to the University of Washington-Seattle studying neurobiology. Originally, I planned to become be a bioengineer and did research in a particle physics lab studying bosons from the Large Hadron Collider at CERN (and that's about all I ever understood from that lab). Later on, I decided to do research on Friday Harbor island and studied the neurogenetics of regeneration in deep-sea Ptychoderid worms and found my love of neuroscience research. Unfortunately, I did not want to be a field biologist and decided to join a more translational lab studying nanoparticle treatment in a brain injury mice model at Seattle Children's. During my gap year, I stayed at Children's working as a research technician studying heart failure in an OGT-KO mice model and changes in protein expression in thyroid hormone treated aged mice. My primary background has been largely in behavioral neuroscience and neurogenetics and is something I'd like to focus in my future training. Outside of research, I am a big fan of ukulele and collecting vinyls (and weird shirts). Swimming is a big passion of mine and hiking as well, unfortunately I find myself developing allergies to a lot of things I enjoy! I have a fiancée who will be starting medical school at the University of Washington but am looking forward to what the future has to offer!

Fun Fact: I accidentally got stuck in a crowd of people for a movie shoot, which I later learned was Fifty Shades Darker.



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Student Awards and Achievements

- Eileen Hu, Nat Murphy, Brian Hansen – F30
- Ansel Nalin – Pelotonia Fellowship
- Brian Hansen – Department of Physiology and Cell Biology Nishikawara Scholar Award
- Sankalp Malhotra – Burroughs Wellcome Fund Trainee Travel Award, Oral Presentation selection at ACTS, OSUWMC Research Day Winner
- Kevin Blum – patent awarded, 2nd place poster in Biomedical Engineering at the APSA Midwest Regional Meeting
- Anisley Valenciaga – Endocrine Society Travel Award, OSUWMC Research Day Winner
- Michael Sharpnack – Young Investigators Travel Award
- Daniel Brook – Lemeshow Travel Award
- Alecia Blaszcak – Winner of the Basic Science Research category at Department of Internal Medicine Clinical Scientist Trainee Research Day
- Lisa Dorn – Junior Young Investigator Award from the International Society for Heart Research

MSTP Leadership and Academic Achievement Award

- Christopher Ayoub
- Alex Campbell
- Kylene Daily
- Sydney Fobare
- Steven Scoville
- Steven Sher
- Zheng Tan
- Kylie Zane

Residency Matches Class of 2018

- Kyle Beckwith – The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center - Internal Medicine PSTP Track
- Amanda Campbell – Nationwide Children's Hospital – Pediatrics
- David Clever – Washington University in St. Louis - Orthopedic Surgery
- Muhtadi Islam – University of Kansas – Neurology
- Steven Scoville – The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center - General Surgery
- Aaron Victor – Cedars-Sinai Medical Center - Pathology PSTP Track

Medical Scientist Student Organization Officers

- President – Farbod Fazlollahi
- Vice President – Kylie Zane
- Secretary – Matt Lordo
- Treasurer – Helen Chen

University Fellowships

- Matt Lordo
- Walter Wang
- Danielle Tyson
- Alex Campbell
- Helen Chen
- Ren Yin
- Ronald Inglehart

Presidential Fellowships

- Kristina Witcher
- Chris Bobba

Upcoming Events

October 2nd-4th, 2018- MSTP Recruitment Session
November 27th-29th, 2018 - MSTP Recruitment Session
January 8th-10th, 2019- MSTP Recruitment Session
January 29th-31st, 2019- MSTP Recruitment Session
TBD (ca. April 2019) – Annual OSUWMC Trainee Research Day



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