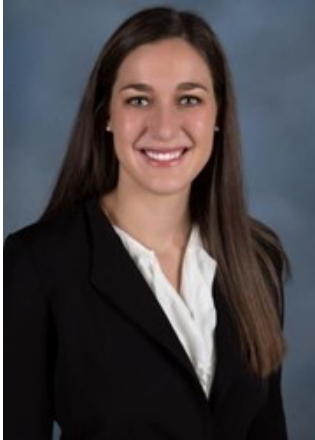


## Bios: PGY 1 Class 2022-2023

### Categorical Interns:



#### **Lexus Andrews, MD, MBA**

Medical School: University of Alabama

MBA: Millsaps

Undergraduate: Millsaps

Lexus is originally from Alabama and attended Millsaps college where she was on the varsity Volleyball team and team captain her senior year. After college, she completed an MBA and worked as a scribe before coming to UAB for medical school. She has worked on several projects focused in the area of Geriatrics including a program looking at the telephone assessment of mobility for homebound older adults, a hospital-based mobility program, and research surrounding the recruitment of older adults for studies. She is a dedicated mentor and has served as a clinical skills teacher for second year medical students and volunteered as a basketball coach for middle school girls while in college. In recognition of her outstanding academic performance Lexus was inducted into the AOA Honor Society. Lexus still enjoys athletics, volleyball, basketball and hiking.



#### **Emma Astrike-Davis, MD**

Medical School: UNC

Undergraduate: UNC

Emma is from Durham and attended UNC for college as a prestigious Morehead Scholar as well as a varsity cross-country team member. She obtained her BSPH degree in public health and stayed at UNC for medical school. She has actively worked with multiple research projects with the UNC Division of Rheumatology and has been incredibly productive with several recent manuscripts. She has also served as co-president for the Farmworkers clinic with SHAC, as the President of the Geriatrics Interest Group, and as a Schweitzer Fellow for her work with healthcare insurance enrollment. Emma has received multiple honors and awards, including induction into the Mayer Honor Society for Community Service with a Scholarly Concentration in Care of Older Patients. In addition to winning the Raleigh Marathon in 2018, Emma holds a Guinness Book of World Record for running the fastest half-marathon in a Super-Hero Costume in 2019.



### **Alex Bishop, MD**

Medical School: University of Minnesota

Undergraduate: Colby

Alex is originally from Minnesota and attended Colby for college where she majored in Global Health with an Honors thesis focusing on the Ebola outbreak. Prior to medical school, she worked as a scribe at an ED in Minnesota. She enjoys medical education and mentoring and has served as a peer mentor for first and second year medical students and an officer with the Preparing for Oral Presentations Student Group. Alex has been an active volunteer with Hospice, serving as a companion and “11<sup>th</sup> hour” volunteer since 2016. She has been involved in biomedical research since her time as a research assistant in her undergraduate studies and is currently completing a two year study examining outcomes of patients with immune thrombocytopenia who underwent open vs laparoscopic splenectomy. In her spare time, Alex enjoys dancing, running, skiing, and anything involving spending time outside and in nature.



### **Hannah Dee, MD**

Medical School: Cornell

Undergraduate: Georgetown

Hannah is from Virginia and graduated from Georgetown with a degree in Science, Technology as well as International Affairs. After college, she worked for a year as a research assistant and study coordinator in DC for a non-profit clinic that focused on caring for LGBTQ+ patients and those with HIV. After excelling as a medical student where she was inducted into the AOA Honor Society and receiving multiple awards including the Janet M. Glasgow award for the woman who places top in her class, she completed her internship in Internal Medicine at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. She has since served as a General Medical Officer with the Navy, working to provide women’s health care and general medical care as well as leadership to multiple squadrons under her leadership as well as service that included deployment to Kuwait. During her time in service, she received the Humanitarian Service Medal for her work during COVID-19 operations as well as the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for her performance during her deployment. She is interested in pursuing a career in Infectious Disease with a focus on medical education. Hannah enjoys skiing, hiking, running, sailing, and is matching with Abigail who will be a resident in Orthopedics.



### **Patrick Duggan, MD**

Medical School: Mayo

Undergraduate: Univ of Pennsylvania

Patrick is from New Jersey and attended the University of Pennsylvania where he majored in biology with a concentration in neurobiology. During college, his interest in health care justice and caring for the underserved was fostered with his volunteer work at a homeless clinic in Philadelphia. As a medical student, he has continued work with a student run, free clinic that serves primarily patients who are undocumented in western Minnesota. He worked tirelessly with this clinic to obtain grant funding to assist with an immunization initiative with COVID and also worked with the recently founded clinic practice committee to improve overall care to patients served in this clinic. Patrick is interested in

pursuing a career in General Medicine. Outside of medicine, Patrick enjoys cooking and baking, basketball, lacrosse, The Buffalo Bills, and is couples matching with Beatriz who attended UNC for college and will be pursuing residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology.



### **Lauren Goldbeck, MD**

Medical School: UVA

Undergraduate: UVA

Lauren is from Virginia originally and attended UVA for college where she majored in biology. After graduation, she worked for a year in DC with the National Center for Health Research as a women's health insurance assistance fellow, a non-profit organization providing direct assistance to socioeconomically disadvantaged patients in obtaining insurance benefits. As a medical student, she has served as the UVA AMA chapter Community Service Chair and worked for three years with an 80-year-old woman with the patient-student partner program. In her role with the AMA, she worked to organize a program that involved medical students and local

law enforcement that focused on teaching and guiding UVA medical students to then teach community members how to recognize opioid overdose and administer naloxone. Lauren loves dogs and is not only a dog walker and volunteer with the SPCA, but also co-founded the Pets in Medicine group. She is interested in pursuing a career that includes work in health care policy. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys gardening, macrame, and tennis.



**Kyler Herrington, MD**

Medical School: Medical College of Georgia

Undergraduate: University of Georgia

Kyler is from Georgia and grew up in a small, rural community where he worked at his grandfather’s hardware store. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a degree in microbiology, Kyler worked for a year with the US Department of Agriculture where he studied antimicrobial resistance with bacteria such as Salmonella. Kyler has served on the Honor Council with his medical school for all four years, has been actively engaged with his church, and has been recognized for his outstanding academic and clinical performance with induction into both the AOA and Gold Humanism Honor Societies. He has always been interested in returning to the community in which he grew up, and

although originally thought this would entail a career in general medicine is now considering ways in which he could give back in the field of Hematology/Oncology by providing subspecialized care to patients in a rural and underserved area. In his free time, Kyler is interested in Coen brothers films, poetry, and homebrewing.



**Bobby Ijeoma, MD**

Medical School: Emory

Undergraduate: UAB

Bobby grew up in Georgia as the second oldest of 6 children. He attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham for college and graduated with a degree in Chemistry. Bobby has been active in medical school and has served as a class elected Senator for all four years—this included positions such as Events Committee Chair, VP of Communications, and currently the Co-President of the Medical Student Senate. In addition, he has been actively involved with SNMA where he served as VP of the Emory Chapter and was elected by faculty and peers to be a member of the Council for Advancement of Black Voices in America. Bobby volunteered as a part of a mental health initiative in a

community clinic caring for patients who were often refugees and working through trauma and PTSD. At this point, he is not sure of specialty but is interested in a career that includes work and training in Global Health. Bobby enjoys music, running, and board games with friends.



**Richard Jensen, MD**

Medical School: University of Washington

Undergraduate: Washington State University

Richard grew up in Washington and was the first in his family to attend college. He attended Highline College and received an AS in Biology and then completed his undergraduate time at Washington State University where he graduated with a degree in Zoology. Prior to medical school, Richard worked as a scribe and also a patient service representative, helping with patient intake and insurance authorization in Seattle. His volunteer work includes dedicated time with the Outreach clinic through his medical school as well as work with the URiM student group at the University of Washington. Richard is training in Jiu Jitsu and working toward a blue belt and enjoys playing basketball, boxing, and dog walking. He is couples matching with Natasha who is pursuing residency training in Psychiatry.



**Sam Kahlenberg, MD**

Medical School: University of Texas at San Antonio

Undergraduate: UT Austin

Sam grew up in San Antonio and was a highly ranked golf player while in High School in Texas before attending college at UT Austin. As a medical student, Sam co-founded and served as VP for an International Relief group that supported a clinic in Costa Rica that cares for the underserved. Sam has an interest in GI medicine and has worked with several research projects focused on liver transplant outcomes. He serves as a student interviewer for his medical school, volunteers at the Transitional Living and Learning Center, and works as a member of the Stuttering Foundation which includes time mentoring and advising young members. Sam's father attended UNC for his Surgical Oncology residency, and he is looking forward to continuing the Tarheel legacy. Sam continues to enjoy playing golf and basketball (playing as well as watching and analyzing on NBA reddit).



### **Govind Kallumkal, MD**

Medical School: University of Florida

Undergraduate: FSU

Govind is from Florida and after graduating from FSU with a major in Biological Sciences and a Minor in Chemistry, worked for a year as a second-grade teacher with an extended day program through the Florida school system. Govind has continued to be engaged in teaching and education and will graduate from UF along the Medical Education Track. He has been actively engaged with his medical school, serving on multiple student task forces and as a member of the search committee for the new SOM Director of Evaluation and Assessment, the class representative for the curriculum committee, Mentorship Chair, and admissions committee member. He was awarded the University of

Florida College of Medicine Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his work with medical students, including chairing the orientation for the incoming class of 2023. In recognition of his outstanding academic performance, Govind was inducted into the AOA Honor Society. Outside of medicine, Govind enjoys video games (sounds like he is unbeatable in Smash Bros), playing tennis, and travel.



### **Justin McCallen, MD**

Medical School: Brody School of Medicine

Undergraduate: UNC

Justin is from Raleigh and graduated from UNC with a degree in Biology and Economics. Prior to medical school, Justin worked for two years as a volunteer and HIV counselor for the Samaritan Health Center in Durham. He spent a year at the NIH with a Scholars program, during which time he was able to explore his passion for research and GI medicine. He was recognized with the ECU Research Distinction Scholar award, served as president and co-founder of the Brody Research Scholars, and has continued research work as an MRSP Research Fellow with the National Cancer Institute, working with models of NAFLD and liver cancer to study the role of platelets and T cells in controlling

disease progression. He also served on the Medical Student council as Vice President during his first, second, and third years of medical school and was recognized for his outstanding academic performance with induction into AOA. His goals include an academic career in GI medicine that includes caring for the people of North Carolina. Justin enjoys podcasts, reading, basketball and skiing, and strategy games such as Settlers of Catan and Risk.



**Rose Nganga, MD, PhD**

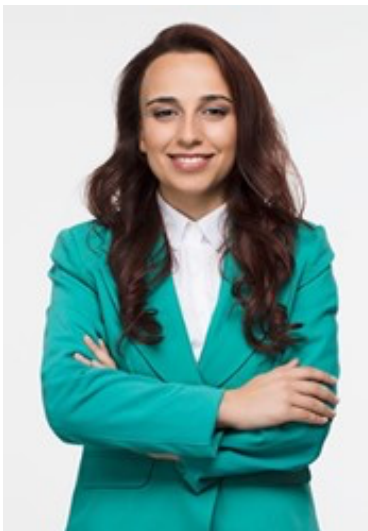
Medical School: University South Carolina

Graduate School: MUSC

Undergraduate: Benedict College

Rose is originally from Kenya and came to the United States on scholarship given her academic promise. After excelling in college in Columbia, SC she went on to complete a PhD in Biomedical Sciences with the Medical University of South Carolina. Her research work focused on understanding the mechanism of sphingolipids modulation in Fingolimod-mediated cancer cell death. Given a growing interest in clinical oncology, she decided to pursue medical school and matriculated in the University of South Carolina School of Medicine where she has continued to excel. She was selected to serve on her medical school's

Admissions Evaluations Committee and volunteered with Hospice as a patient companion. She has been recognized by her peers for her outstanding patient care with induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Rose plans a career in Hematology/Oncology with a focus on Global Health and care to the underserved. Outside of medicine, Rose enjoys gardening, Zumba (she was a prior instructor), podcasts and music, and cooking.



**Tamari Papidze, MD**

Medical School: Tbilisi State Medical University

Tamari is from Tchiatura, Georgia and is the first person in her family to attend college and medical school. During medical school, she organized volunteers for a homeless shelter, taught fitness and health classes for other students, and organized Earth Day events. As an outstanding medical student, she was given scholarships to come to the United States to rotate as an Acting Intern with Brigham and Women's Hospital and Emory. After graduating high school as an exchange student in the United States, she got a scholarship to attend the American MD Program at Emory University. For the past year, she has worked as a Research Assistant at the Duke University School of Medicine in a lab focusing on the role of TGF-beta signaling pathway in solid cancers. Tamari enjoys

Latin dance, playing the piano, fashion design, photography, ice skating, debate and gardening. She will be joining her significant other, Nik Karazanashvili, who is currently a first-year Neurology resident at UNC!



### **Sydney Power, MD**

Medical School: McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health

Undergraduate: University of Kansas

Sydney is originally from Chicago and attended high school in Tampa. Sydney grew up as a competitive gymnast and diver and attended the University of Kansas where she was a Division I athlete on the swim and dive team—making the All-Big 12 Rookie team her first year. She has been a passionate advocate for patients with IBD, serving as a patient representative for the Crohn’s and Colitis foundation and participating in research aiming to target endoscopic remission in patients with IBD. She also worked with the “IBD Qorus” study which was a nationwide quality improvement initiative aimed at improving outcomes for patients with IBD. She has served as a peer tutor, medical student interviewer for the Office of Admissions at McGovern, and a student ambassador for interview days in addition to multiple volunteer and community outreach activities. In recognition of her outstanding academic performance, she was inducted into the AOA Honor Society. Sydney enjoys reading, fitness classes like barre and trampoline, and cooking.



### **Khoula Saleem, MD**

Medical School: Mississippi

Undergraduate: Mississippi College

Khoula grew up in Mississippi to parents who were originally from Pakistan. She attended Mississippi college where she graduated Summa cum laude with High Honors in Biology and Chemistry. She has served as a peer tutor, worked on the School of Medicine’s student government as class secretary, was selected to evaluate medical school applicants as part of the Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMI) process, and has actively participated in the M4/M2 longitudinal teaching track. She has also worked as an Interprofessional Committee Member with the Associated Student Body which includes students from seven schools. She has volunteered with the student clinic, the ICNA Relief Sponsored Mobile Clinic, and with a program aimed to provide care to children in an underserved area in Mississippi. In recognition of her outstanding academic performance as well as clinical and patient care skills, Khoula was inducted into both the AOA and Gold Humanism Honor Societies. Khoula enjoys ceramics and pottery, hiking, and spelunking.





### **Rayna Schwartz, MD**

Medical School: University of Arizona, Tucson

Undergraduate: University of Arizona

Rayna is originally from Tucson and attended the University of Arizona for college where she graduated with a degree in Physiology. Her interest in medicine grew during college as she worked as an EMT. After college, she worked as a medical receptionist at a Neurology clinic before matriculating into the University of Arizona school of medicine. Rayna will graduate from medical school with a Distinction in Community service as well as a Distinction in Research, and highly values outpatient medicine, volunteerism, and community outreach.

She is proficient in American Sign language and has served as a student coordinator for Art Works (a program that uses art for adults with disabilities to enhance their skills) and as a volunteer with the Juniors Active in Wheelchair Sports program. In recognition of her outstanding academic performance, Rayna was inducted into the AOA Honor Society. In her spare time, Rayna enjoys baking and reading science fiction.



### **Christina Siems, MD, M.Ed, MA**

Medical School: Loyola

Graduate: Med OSU

Undergraduate: OSU

Christina grew up in a small town in Ohio and attended The Ohio State University where she graduated with a degree in Human Development and continued to complete a master's degree in Education. As a college student, she hosted a TV show – “Around the Town”. After college, she worked for three years as a third-grade teacher in Charlotte before coming to Loyola for medical school. In Chicago, Christina has enjoyed working part-time as an actress (including an appearance as a nurse in Chicago Med and background actress in other shows such as Empire, Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, Fargo, and Batwoman). In medical school, she

has served as a peer mentor, Co-Director of the Student run Student Reviews, small group facilitator for MS2 students, VP for the Integrative Medicine Interest Group, and volunteers as a court appointed advocate for foster children. Christina will be completing the Bioethics and Professionalism Honors Program and will earn an MA in Bioethics through OSU. Her husband is from North Carolina, and they are looking forward to returning to the area. Christina enjoys coffee (and co-founded Pilot's Coffee) and being a Grill Master (she won the Ohio State Grill Master title for the barbecue competition judged by OSU Food Science Faculty in 2017)!



### **Haley Stone, MD**

Medical School: University of Florida

Undergraduate: UNC

Haley is from Tampa originally and attended UNC for college. As an undergraduate student, Haley served as the Director of Outreach for Hope Gardens that focused on sustainable agriculture. As a medical student, she has been involved in a diverse array of activities including teaching Salsa and dance classes (“gator salsa”) and founding the UF School of Medicine’s Arts in Medicine student group. The Arts in Medicine Program is a unique program that is student-run and seeks to integrate the arts into a Mobile Outreach Clinic associated with a local shelter for people who are homeless—leading art activities and recruiting local musicians to play music for patients. She is co-president of the Integrative Health and Medicine student interest group and is an active volunteer with the homeless shelter and clinic mobile outreach program. She also serves as a tutor for more junior medical students, Mentorship Chair for the Peer Mentorship Initiative, and co-founded “Med Buddies” which pairs medical and pre-medical students. She is couples matching with Alex who will be joining UNC as a new Medicine-Pediatrics resident. Haley enjoys dance including Salsa, swing, lindy hop as well as watching the Great British Baking Show and up-cycling furniture found in thrift stores.



### **Sam Sugimoto, MD**

Medical School: Wake Forest University

Undergraduate: UC Santa Cruz

Sam is originally from Berkeley, California and graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in neurosciences. He then spent three years teaching and serving as Head of Science at a preparatory school in Berkeley, where he specialized in teaching kids with learning differences. Sam has a diverse array of interests and has a passion for teaching patients and families about the importance of nutrition and fitness. He served as a Cooking and Activities volunteer with the Brenner Families in Training program and facilitated a collaborative composting program between the FIT program and a local garden that distributes produce to food insecure patients seen in the Downtown Health Plaza clinic. In recognition of his outstanding patient care skills and dedication, he was selected by his peers for induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Sam enjoys road cycling, gardening, cooking and music (he has produced two albums and published a cookbook)!



### **Scott Taylor, MD**

Medical School: VCU

Undergraduate: UNC

Scott is originally from Lynchburg, VA and attended UNC for college where he graduated with a degree in Chemistry. After college, he worked as a scribe in the ED in Charlotte and later in Lynchburg before beginning medical school at VCU. His volunteer work has included serving with the “Love for our Elders” program in which he mails handwritten cards and letters to recipients across the country, work with the Crossover Clinic to deliver care to the underserved in Richmond, and a volunteer for ACLS certification. Scott will be joining his fiancée, Ellen, who is currently a second-year resident in Radiology at UNC. Scott enjoys

Basketball and is an avid UNC fan as well as playing tennis, eSports, and Chess.



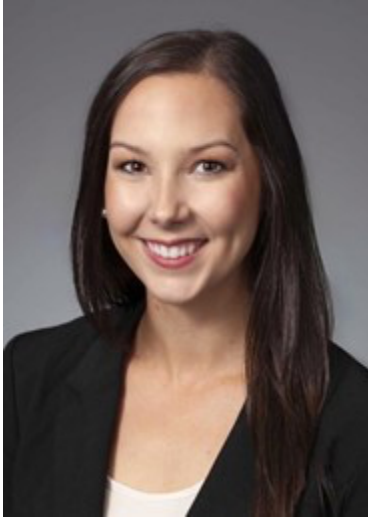
### **Amanda Tosi, MD**

Medical School: EVMS

Undergraduate: William and Mary

Amanda attended William and Mary for college where she majored in Kinesiology & Health Sciences and Hispanic Studies. She is fluent in Spanish and has been committed to caring for Spanish speaking patients throughout medical school. She has served as a coordinator and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Esperanza clinic, has worked with several research projects to better understand the role and impact of student-run, free, bilingual clinics, and serves as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Student Run Free Clinics. She is interested in general medicine and potentially addiction or palliative care medicine, but

ultimately sees herself in a career that includes caring for the underserved and Spanish speaking patients. In recognition of her outstanding commitment to patient care, she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. In addition, she was awarded the Salute to Service Award from the Medical Society of Virginia and the Annette Kagan Memorial Award in recognition of her “compassion and service to classmates”. In her free time, she enjoys running (took second place for her age group in the Philadelphia marathon), writing hand-written cards, and cooking as an “experimental chef”.



### **Lynnee Vaught, MD**

Medical School: Brody School of Medicine

Undergraduate: Wake Forest

Lynnee grew up in Clemmons, North Carolina and attended WFU where she graduated with degrees in Latin and Biology. While at WFU, she was an NCAA student athlete as team captain of the Varsity Dance team. At WFU, she served as the Dance Team representative to the NCAA Student Athlete Advisory Committee. After college, she worked as a scribe in the ED at WFU and became a professional Cheerleader for the Carolina Panthers Football team. As a medical student, Lynnee has been committed to community and volunteer work, and completed a research project looking at air pollution and drinking water violations in Randolph County. She has volunteered with the Greenville Community Shelter Clinic, co-founded the Brody Research Society, serves as a tour guide for future medical students, and mentors future students who have been accepted into the Brody School of Medicine. She continues to work as a dance instructor and teaches ballet, jazz, tap and tumbling to all age groups. In addition to dance, Lynnee enjoys wood burning, hockey and football, swimming, and reading.



### **Kevin Wang, MD**

Medical School: Brown

Undergraduate: Northwestern

Kevin is originally from Ohio and attended Northwestern where he majored in chemistry and biology. After college, Kevin worked as a Community Health Fellow with Project Horseshoe Farm (a non-profit in rural Alabama), serving as a medical and social navigator for people with complex medical and psychological needs. Kevin is passionate about health care disparities and caring for patients in rural settings. At Brown, he created a local “Citizen Physicians” student organization, focused on legislative advocacy and action. He has also served on the Admissions Committee, an ambassador for second looks, and a peer mentor. He has focused his research work in evaluating the impact of patient navigation in improving patient access and experiences through work with a local free clinic and volunteered as a research assistant with the Clinica Esperanza/Hope clinic where he created and administered a community survey to better understand patient and community perceptions of the 2020 census administration. In addition to his interest in health policy and advocacy, Kevin has a passion for music and is a tenor sax and jazz enthusiast and enjoys tennis, trail-running, and cooking.

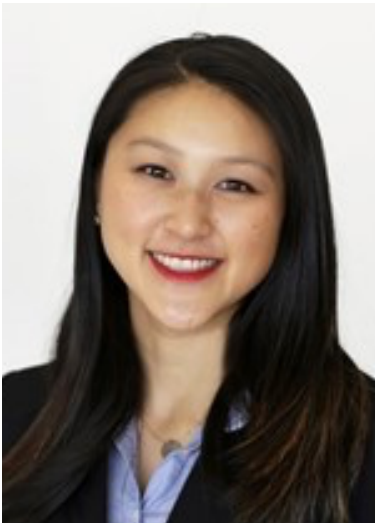


### **Chloe West, MD**

Medical School: UNC

Undergraduate: Wheaton College

Chloe grew up in a small town near Charlotte as an identical twin and attended Wheaton college where she graduated with a degree in Anthropology. Chloe completed the Comprehensive Advanced Medical Program of Spanish (CAMPOS) program with UNC and is fluent in Spanish. She has been actively involved with the UNC LMSA chapter and has served as a pharmacy and clinic volunteer with Urban Ministries in Raleigh. She worked with Dr. Aleman to develop and administer a community needs assessment tool for people in Ciales, Puerto Rico. She is interested in a career that focuses on Women's health and trauma-informed care in addition to advocacy and caring for Spanish speaking patients. In her spare time, Chloe enjoys singing, songwriting, playing the violin and piano, and dance including salsa and swing.



### **Emmy Yang, MD, Master Theology**

Medical School: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Undergraduate: Yale

Emmy is from Atlanta and attended Yale for college where she majored in molecular biophysics and biochemistry. Emmy speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese. As a medical student, she received a full scholarship to pursue a two-year Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in medical ethics through Duke University. Her thesis focused on "a theological exploration of time and implications on medicine and care for the elderly". She has published in JAGS and Academic Medicine, serves as a peer tutor, volunteered as the IM clerkship representative, and continues to serve as a peer mentor for more junior students. Emmy speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese and worked as a Spanish interpreter in East Harlem during her first year of medical school. She was recognized for her outstanding patient-focused care with induction into the Gold Humanism Honorary Society. Emmy enjoys ultimate frisbee, visiting farmers markets, cooking, yoga and running in her spare time.

## **PSTP Interns:**



### **Cecilia Levandowski, MD, PhD**

Medical School/Graduate School: Colorado

Undergraduate: Davidson College

After graduating from Davidson with a degree in Biology, Cecie joined the NIH as a post-baccalaureate IRTA fellow in Dr. Collins' laboratory where she studied Hutchinson Gilford Progeria Syndrome, a rare premature aging disorder. After working with Dr. Collins for two years, she came to the University of Colorado School of Medicine as a Research Assistant prior to joining the MD/PhD program at Colorado. Her PhD work was focused on the study of alterations in transcription induced by an aging-related p53 isoform (Np53 as a Regulator of p53 Biology). She is interested in pursuing a career in Oncology, applying her research interest in aging and transcription to help to develop novel cancer therapies (recognizing the close relationship between aging and cancer). In addition to research, Cecie has been actively engaged in her medical school and has served as a mentor for more junior students and organized a Tantra Park Mother's Group. Cecie enjoys running, cooking, science fiction reading, skiing, and being an amateur handy woman.



### **Michael Motley, MD, PhD**

Medical/Graduate School: Stony Brook

Undergraduate: Cornell

Michael is from New York and attended Cornell for college where he majored in Biological sciences with a concentration in Genetics and Development. After college, Michael joined the NIH as a Post-baccalaureate IRTA fellow and worked to study the clearance of fibrin from extravascular tissue, utilizing mouse survival surgery and ex vivo confocal microscopy to directly visualize cells engaging in clot mediation. At Stony Brook, his research has focused on the study of monoclonal antibodies developed against the capsular polysaccharide of carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella* and determined their efficacy in helping clear infection. As a medical student, he has served as a teaching assistant for the preclinical pathogens and host defense course, mentored more junior MSTP students, and served as the MSTP representative for the School of Medicine Curriculum Committee. He has worked with journalists and congressional staffers through the Communicating Science and its Government Relations department at Stony Brook to identify ways to improve communication with policy makers and the community in order to be prepared to advocate for public health in his role as a physician scientist with a focus in Infectious Diseases. Michael enjoys running, mud runs, triathlons as well as woodworking, kickball, inner tube water polo (which he played at Cornell), trivia, and is a certified SCUBA diver.



## **Mathew Sebastian, MD, PhD**

Medical School/Graduate School: University of Florida

Undergraduate: University of South Carolina Honors College

Mathew is originally from South Carolina and graduated from USC with a degree in biology. After graduation, he went to the NIH as an Intramural Research Fellow in the Laboratory of Immunology in NIAID working with regulatory T cells, a subset of CD4+ T cells that serve to dampen the adaptive immune response. His research at UF has included work with studying the role of Pglyrp3 in regulation of Breast Cancer metastases, the role of copper chaperones in dendritic cells and their role in future immunotherapies, and more recently with a lab focusing on the combination of immune checkpoint blockade and bone marrow derived from hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells in overcoming checkpoint inhibitor resistance in CNS malignancies. He also has an interest in medical education and published an article summarizing his findings from a study examining how MD-PhD students were currently being trained in clinical research. With his ultimate goal of working as a physician scientist in the field of Oncology, Mat created a patient-centered research symposium to highlight the importance of basic and translational research as a collaborative effort with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and invited well known people who had cancer serve as keynote speakers. Mat was recognized for his outstanding dedication to patient care by induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Mat enjoys running, cooking, and experimenting in the kitchen.

## Preliminary Interns:

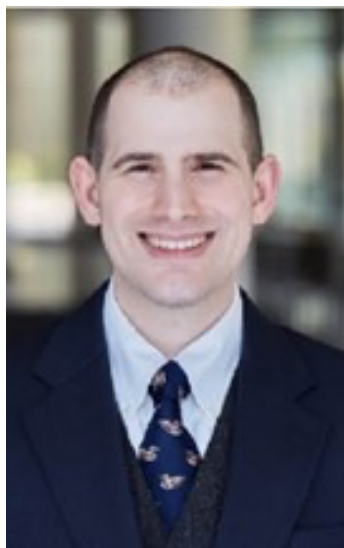


### **Helen Bui, MD**

Medical School: UNC

Undergraduate: UNC

Helen grew up in Charlotte and with parents who came to the United States from Vietnam was the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. She graduated from UNC with a degree in clinical lab science, and after college worked as a manager for a nail salon, director and swim instructor for a YMCA, and as a medical laboratory scientist at Caromont Health in Gastonia. As a medical student, Helen has served as co-president for the UNC School of Medicine AMWA and completed a research fellowship year with the UNC Department of Dermatology. Helen's research has focused on Hidradenitis Suppurativa. She has been a content contributor for the Council for Nail Disorders, served as a student lead for Hope for HS, and volunteered as UNC School of Medicine admissions committee evaluator. In addition, she has worked as a co-leader for the UNC SOM medical mentors and served as co-president of the UNC AMWA chapter as well as co-president of the Minority Women in Medicine through the UNC SNMA. She is planning on a career involving complex medical dermatology. Helen enjoys boxing, interior designing, and building realistic 1:24 scale miniature dollhouses.



### **Matthew Draelos, MD, PhD**

Medical School: Duke

Undergraduate: NCSU

Matthew is originally from High Point, North Carolina and attended NCSU as a park Scholar where he majored in both Chemistry and Biochemistry. Matthew is completing his MD/PhD degree at Duke where he is only the second person to complete this program with a degree in Chemistry. Matthew's PhD research focused on discovering cryptic phosphorylation in nucleoside natural products in compounds that are medicinally and agriculturally important antifungals. His more recent research has focused on developing liquid chromatography mass spectrometry methods to detect dermatology relevant compounds (such as engineered retinoids and antifungals) from non-invasive tape stripping of patient skin which permit the in vivo quantification of drug penetrance and retention in the epidermis. Matthew has served as the MSTP class representative at Duke, has continued to mentor high school students in Guilford County, served as an application reviewer for the NCSU Park Scholars Selection Committee, and is the editor in chief for the Duke Science Review. Matthew will pursue residency training in Dermatology with the career goal of working as a Physician Scientist, translating his chemical training into innovative solutions for novel topical drug delivery systems. Matthew enjoys woodworking, playing the clarinet as well as the piano and French horn, model ship building, tennis, skiing, general aviation, and history.





**Louisa Eckman, MD, MPH**

Medical School: UNC

Undergraduate: Haverford

Louisa grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Haverford for college where she majored in biology. Louisa attended the Virginia Tech School of Medicine prior to transferring to UNC where she will be completing a combined MD/MPH degree. Her research work has included a review to identify potential barriers to gene therapy for sickle cell disease. At UNC, she has served as a peer tutor, a child caregiver during the pandemic, and is a part of the MedUNCedoos a cappella group at UNC. She will be pursuing an Advanced residency program in Anesthesiology after completion of her preliminary year at UNC with the goal of eventually integrating her prior research in on racial health disparities by working to understand inequity in perioperative and critical care outcomes. Louisa's fiancée is currently an MD/PhD student at UNC who plans on pursuing pediatrics after graduating next year. Louisa enjoys cooking, woodworking, home renovation (including building cabinet doors for her home) and Science Fiction.



**Vrushab Gowda, MD, JD**

Medical School: UNC

Graduate School: Harvard

Undergraduate: UNC-Charlotte

Vrushab grew up in New Jersey and graduated from UNC-Charlotte with the Business Honors program and degrees in Economics and Biology. Prior to medical school, he worked with physician-investigators to evaluate the Affordable Care Act's impact on imaging practice. Vrushab has a strong interest in health care policy and reform and completed a JD with Harvard in 2021 before returning to his UNC medical school rotations. As a student fellow at Harvard Law School, he worked on a project to identify institutional barriers to telehealth expansion, including jurisdictional fragmentation, uneven reimbursements, absent interstate regulatory consensus and unresolved questions of tort liability. He has served as VP for Diversity within the UNC school of medicine Student Government as well as a Senator of the UNC Graduate and Professional Student Association. Vrushab will be pursuing further training with residency in Radiology and is planning on a career that includes health care policy and regulation within academic medicine, using technology to eliminate disparities, and providing high value care to the underserved. Vrushab enjoys soccer, Formula 1, aviation, history, and hiking.



### **Emily Hollis, MD**

Medical School: UNC

Undergraduate: UNC

Emily is originally from Concord, NC and attended UNC for college where she majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry and Medical Anthropology. During her senior year of college, she served as a Doula at UNC. Emily has been active in her community at the UNC School of Medicine and served as the MSI class liaison for the Graham Research Society, founded a Trauma Informed Care elective, worked as a care manager with the SHAC free student clinic, and served as President of the IPV awareness and advocacy group. She has worked with the UNC Department of Radiation Oncology in a review comparing overall survival, patient characteristics, and cessation rates in patients with cervical cancer who underwent smoking cessation counseling after diagnosis as well as a review of Vaginal Melanoma Review for the Rare Diseases and Outcomes Database. Emily is couples matching with Anthony who will be pursuing residency training in Orthopedics. After completion of her preliminary year in Medicine, Emily will begin residency training in Radiation Oncology. Emily enjoys cycling, baking, reading, yoga and weightlifting, traveling, and pottery.



### **Katherine Jicha, MD**

Medical School: UNC

Undergraduate: NYU

Katherine is from Chapel Hill originally and attended NYU where she spent a semester in the Czech Republic and graduated with a degree in Music. While at NYU, Katherine did an internship at MTV where she composed the daily music and pop culture news updates and created “cheesy one liners” that run across the bottom of the screen. She is able to speak basic French, Russian, and Spanish. As a student at UNC, she was selected to participate as a Research Fellow in Clinical Trials and has been engaged in research with not only our Dermatology department but also with our Rheumatology and Vasculitis groups. She worked as a study coordinator for a longitudinal study in pediatric patients with moderate to severe Atopic Dermatitis, investigated the costs of conventional cancer screening methods vs PET variants for patients with dermatomyositis, and participated in a clinical study looking at outcomes of a new drug for HS. She has served on the medical school’s admissions committee, as a peer mentor, and is the elected music director for the MedUNCedoos a cappella group. Katherine is interested in complex medical Dermatology and will be pursuing further training in Dermatology after completion of her preliminary year in Medicine. Katherine enjoys music, travel, learning Spanish, and weightlifting.

## Preliminary Interns: Ophthalmology



### **Bryce DeChamplain, MD**

Medical School: MUSC

Undergraduate: Clemson

Bryce is from South Carolina and attended Clemson for college where she graduated with degrees in Biology as well as Language and International Health. Bryce has been actively engaged in volunteer work at MUSC with the Storm Eye Free Clinic and has served as an active member of the South Carolina Medical Association with an appointment to the Constitution Committee for the medical student section. She has served as a supplemental instructor for more junior medical students, a weekly diner volunteer to the Ronald McDonald House of Charleston, and a volunteer with the CARES free medical clinic. She is proficient in Spanish and in recognition of her outstanding academic performance and patient care skills has been inducted into both the AOA and Gold Humanism Honor Societies. Bryce will be staying at UNC for residency in Ophthalmology. Bryce enjoys cooking and baking, travel, skiing, learning languages, embroidery, shotgun sports, axe throwing, and competitive cheerleading.



### **Pooja Shah, MD**

Medical School: WFU

Undergraduate: East Tennessee State University

Pooja is from Tennessee and attended East Tennessee State University where she graduated with a degree in Health Sciences with a Microbiology concentration and a minor in applied Spanish. Pooja is interested in medical education, mentoring, and wellness. Pooja has served as a co-director for the clinical skills peer teaching program and co-chair for the Service Learning Scholars Certificate program at WFU. Her research work has focused on assessing prognostic factors in retinal detachment, analyzing dermatologist burnout during the pandemic, assessing the knowledge and attitudes of women in Mangalore, India regarding HPV and the vaccine. In addition, she has worked as a mentoring coordinator for AMWA and earned a Global Health Certificate through the WFU School of Medicine. She is a certified Yoga instructor and has led weekly classes through the Wildlight Wellness Collective in Winston Salem. She is the co-chair of the Service Learning Scholars Certificate Program and President of the Ophthalmology Interest Group. In recognition of her outstanding performance, she was inducted into the AOA honor society. Pooja will be staying at UNC for her Ophthalmology residency after her preliminary year. Pooja enjoys hiking, yoga and meditation, traveling, and reading and writing poetry.



**Vincent Tang, MD**

Medical School: UC Davis  
Undergraduate: UCLA

Vincent is from California and attended UCLA where he majored in Neuroscience. Prior to medical school, he worked for a year as a scribe and technician with an Ophthalmology practice in California. Vincent has been actively engaged in volunteer work at UC Davis with work with the medical student free clinic. His research in medical school has focused on determining retinal complications in patients with keratoprosthesis, as well as work with the ED to analyze Ophthalmology consult data. In addition, he served as an Intensive Case Manager for Afghan refugees as part of the Refugee Community Engagement Program. Vincent was selected for competitive Ophthalmology Pathology Fellowship Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami which he will complete this year prior to residency. In his free time, he has volunteered for the SPCA as a dog walker and socializer. Vincent will be staying at UNC for his Ophthalmology residency after his preliminary year. He enjoys Hip Hop Choreography and dance, cooking, yoga, and fitness.



**Jason Zehden, MD**

Medical School: Baylor  
D.Pharm University of Texas at Austin 2013-2017  
Undergraduate: Pre-Pharmacy University of Texas El Paso 2011-2013

Jason is from Texas and attended the University of Texas El Paso and then obtained his D.Pharmacy from the University of Texas prior to attending medical school. He worked as a pharmacist during his first two years of medical school. He is fluent in Spanish and his volunteer work has included time with the homeless shelter and clinic in Houston. Jason spent the past year with the UNC Department of Ophthalmology with a competitive research fellowship year during which time he has worked on multiple projects including work to study the impact of attending experience on resident-performed phacoemulsification, a systemic review of ocular adverse events of anti-VEGF therapy in diabetic retinopathy, and an evaluation of risk factors for endogenous endophthalmitis. Jason will be staying at UNC for Ophthalmology residency after his preliminary year. Jason swam competitively growing up and continues to enjoy swimming, tennis, and hiking in the mountains.