Induction
of the
Class of 2022

Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, April 28th, 2022
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Program

Welcome & History
   Suzanne Rose, MD, MSEd
   Senior Vice Dean for Medical Education

Opening Remarks
   J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
   Executive Vice President
   University of Pennsylvania for the Health System
   Dean, Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine

Alpha Omega Alpha Lecture
   Patricia A. Gabow, MD. MACP
   Professor Emerita
   Department of Medicine
   University of Colorado School of Medicine

Student Induction
   Student Introductions
   Sharon Lewis, MD
   AOA Beta Chapter Councilor
   Associate Professor of Neurology
   Assistant Dean for Diversity Recruitment

Resident Induction
   Jennifer R. Kogan, MD
   Associate Dean for Student Success and Professional Development
   Professor of Medicine

Faculty Induction
   Suzanne Rose, MD, MSEd
   Senior Vice Dean for Medical Education

Alumni Induction
   J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
   Executive Vice President
   University of Pennsylvania for the Health System
   Dean, Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine

Closing Remarks
   Suzanne Rose, MD, MSEd
   Senior Vice Dean for Medical Education
ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY

Alpha Omega Alpha is the only national honor medical society in the world. Its raison d’être can be expressed in a phrase: to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession. As stated in the society’s constitution, “Alpha Omega Alpha is organized for educational purposes exclusively and not for profit, and its aims shall be the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment in medical science, practice, and related fields.”

To fulfill the role it has set for itself, Alpha Omega Alpha elects outstanding medical students, graduates, alumni, faculty, and honorary members to its ranks and offers its membership three important programs: the Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professorships are designed to enrich the educational environment of the various medical schools to which they are awarded; the historically-oriented videotape series, Leaders in American Medicine, presents biographical interviews with distinguished men and women; and the society’s journal, The Pharos, is published quarterly and includes nontechnical papers and regular features, which address a wide variety of topics of historical, philosophic, and current interest to physicians. In addition, the society sponsors three annual competitions for students: the Student Essay Awards, the Student Research Fellowships, and the Chapter of the Year Award. Also, in collaboration with the Association of American Medical Colleges, AOA’s Distinguished Teaching Awards are presented annually.

The society key is designed after the Manubrium Sterni. The letters, Alpha Omega Alpha, engraved on the key, represent not only the name of the honor society, but the essential words in its motto: “Worthy to serve the suffering.”
Dr. Patty Gabow is a national leader in delivery system innovation and the care of vulnerable populations. She spent her career at Denver Health, beginning as an academic practitioner and researcher in nephrology and spending the last 20 years there as the CEO, retiring in 2012. She is a professor emerita of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and a Master of the American College of Physicians. She has authored over 170 articles and book chapters and two books, “The Lean Prescription: Powerful Medicine for Our Ailing Healthcare System” and most recently “TIME’S NOW for Women Healthcare Leaders: A Guide for the Journey.” She was a founding member of the federal Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission and currently serves on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Lown Institute Boards. She has received numerous awards, including the National Academy of Medicine’s Gustav O. Lienhard Award, the American Medical Association Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Public Servant, the Association of American Medical Colleges David E. Rogers Award, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine Distinguished Graduate Award, and the Ohtli Award from the Mexican government. She is a member of the Association for Manufacturing Excellence Hall of Fame, the National Academy of Social Insurance, and the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame. She is a graduate of Seton Hill University and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology.
Alpha Omega Alpha
Beta Chapter
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Class of 2022

Students
Alexander Mashayekhi Beschloss
  Anjali Bhatla
  Ian Forst Caplan
  Ruth En-Yeung Choa
  Eli Joseph Cornblath
  Fortunay Habib Diatta
  James Morgan Ding
  Eden Grace Engel-Rebitzer
  Olivia Olabamidele Familusi
    Ramie Aly Fathy
    Charles Generotti
    Michelle Guo
    Allison J. Hare
    Sohaib Khalid Hashmi
    Patricia Hernandez
    Maguire Lee Herriman
    Mitchell A. Johnson
    Ian J. McCurry
    Elana Meer
  Kobina Gumiye Mensah-Brown
  Vivek Uday Nimgaonkar
  Olivia Margaret Oldridge
  Chiara Pandolfi de Rinaldis
  Nicholas Rainer Perkons
    Sara R. Rendell
    Sabine Schneider
    Samuel Safwat Tadros
    Brandon White
    Cheyenne Williams
    Ziyang Xu
    Kimberley Yu
  Salina Gin-Schuan Yuan
  Zachary Dag Zapatero
  Cindy Siyang Zhao

Residents
Dr. Thomas R. Riley
Dr. Michael Perez
Dr. Zachary Reese
Dr. Tomas Andersen
Dr. Aaron Hecht?
Dr. Michael Faggioni?
Dr. Oren Shaked?

Faculty
Dr. Cesar Briceno, MD
Dr. Jessica Dine
Dr. Kevin Volpp
Dr. Farah Hussain
Dr. Howard Julien

Alumni
Rita F. Redberg, MD, M81
Robert Ross, MD, M80
Jeannie Lee, MD, M90

Chapter Counselor
Sharon Lewis, MD
Student Inductees

Alexander Mashayekhi Beschloss

Alex Beschloss graduated from Williams College in 2016, earning a B.A. in Biology where he was a pitcher on the Varsity Baseball team for 4 years. While at PSOM, Alex helped lead the COVID-19 Curriculum Advisory team to develop a 2-week course for medical students on COVID-19. He was selected as co-president for the student group, PennHealthX, where he designed a social determinants of health accelerator focused on solving problems related to SDOH. Alex was awarded the Healthcare Fellowship Award to join the combined MD/MBA program at the Wharton School where he also joined McKinsey & Company as a summer associate in the summer of 2021. He cannot wait to start a career in Internal Medicine!
Anjali Bhatla

Anjali Bhatla graduated from Rice University in 2017, earning a BA in Health Sciences and Policy Studies. Anjali’s work on Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Baker Institute for Public Policy and as the founder of END7 at Rice, led her to be recognized as a Truman Scholar. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Anjali served as co-president of the Forum on Healthcare Reform and the American Medical Association. Her research on COVID-19 and arrhythmias with the Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Center led to a Publication of the Year award from the Heart Rhythm Society. Anjali completed an MBA at Wharton, where she concentrated in Health Care Management and completed internships at Humana and Independence Blue Cross. She strives to integrate her interests in clinical medicine, research, and business to improve healthcare outcomes and delivery. Anjali looks forward to a career in internal medicine.
Ian graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University in 2017, earning a B.S. in Neurobiology. While at the Perelman School of Medicine Ian worked with a clinical research team to identify factors leading to post-operative readmissions. He also learned coding basics and joined an otolaryngology research team utilizing large datasets to describe the characteristics and best treatment paradigms for rare diseases. Ian spent his research year in New York where he worked in a laryngology research laboratory. Ian studied the embryologic expression pattern of several neurotrophic factors identified in the process of reinnervation following recurrent laryngeal nerve injury. He was co-president of the ENT Interest group and looks forward to a career in otolaryngology.
Ruth Choa graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 2014, earning her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Bioengineering. She then joined the Penn MD/PhD program, where she received her PhD in Immunology, studying immunometabolism and skin barrier defense in the laboratory of Dr. Taku Kambayashi. During her doctoral research, Ruth received an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship, published in Science and Cell, and presented at several national conferences where she received awards. At Penn, she has additionally served as Co-Chair of the Association of Women Student MD-PhDs (AWSM), sat on the Penn Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) Executive Council, and led the Immunology MD/PhD student interview and recruitment programs. She is a classically trained pianist and violinist and has performed with the Penn Med Symphony Orchestra and Penn Med Music on Call, also serving as Co-President of Music on Call. Ruth looks forward to continuing her clinical training in Internal Medicine and plans to pursue a physician-scientist career in Hematology/Oncology.
Eli Joseph Cornblath

Eli was a Shipman Scholar at the University of Michigan and graduated in 2015 with a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology. As an MSTP student at the Perelman School of Medicine, Eli completed his PhD in neuroscience in Dani Bassett’s lab. He used network analysis along with structural and functional neuroimaging to study mechanisms of cognition and neuropsychiatric disease. Eli enjoyed organizing monthly program-wide happy hour social events for the MSTP. He was also a co-head director of the Spoof Comedy Show in 2019, which had a cast of 60 students and an audience of over 400. Outside of work, Eli enjoys triathlons, hiking, skiing, and traveling. He is excited to get married in April and begin his training in Neurology at Penn.
Fortunay Habib Diatta

Fortunay is deeply passionate about the mentorship of students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine, as demonstrated by his advocacy work as Student National Medical Association Liaison with the Medical Student Government and as Diversity Chair of the D. Hayes Agnew Surgical Society.

Fortunay spent the past year working in the philanthropic sector as a Lipman Fellow through the Wharton School McNulty Leadership program, where he reviewed global nonprofit organizations vying for the Lipman Prize. He is also an investment Associate for the Penn-Wharton Fund for Health, an initiative meant to provide funding for startup companies work to strengthen the social determinants of health.

Galvanized by his exposure to innovative social impact work through the Lipman Fellowship and the Fund for Health, Fortunay partnered with the Penn Anesthesia department to develop an automated tool to help blood products needs prior to surgery.
James Morgan Ding

Jimmy Ding graduated with Highest Honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 2014, earning a B.S. in Biology. There, he served as lead crisis counselor for the Trevor Project. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Jimmy served on national LGBTQ health advocacy committees within the AMA and GLMA and as co-chair of Penn Med Pride. He also co-created a program dedicated to supporting families of hospitalized patients during the COVID pandemic. Jimmy additionally conducted research on pathways to reduce post-prostatectomy opioid use, and looks forward to continuing his a career at Penn in Urology.
Eden Engel-Rebitzer graduated from Wesleyan University in 2012 with a B.A. in psychology. Following graduation, she worked for the National Center for PTSD on a series of grants studying the impact of combat on soldiers and marines. While at PSOM, Eden completed the medical education certificate and served as chief anatomy and chief ultrasound TA. She has also been active in health services research and completed a year-long health services research fellowship during which she studied and published on a range of topics including the impact of COVID-19 on harm reduction providers, racial disparities in opioid prescribing, and the role of inter-hospital transfer in care escalation. She is looking forward to completing her residency in internal medicine.
Olivia Olabamidele Familusi

Olivia graduated summa cum laude from Tufts University in 2017 with a B.S. in Biology and Anthropology. While in medical school, she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and was a recipient of the National Medical Association (NMA) McGruder-Knox Scholarship. She served as the Co-President, SIDE representative, and Community Service Co-Chair of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). Olivia also volunteered with several community organizations including Covenant House, Cut Hypertension, and the Social Needs Response Team. Olivia’s contributions to the Penn Med community include several curricular innovations aimed at equipping medical students to address health inequities in clinical practice. She also completed a Master of Science degree in Health Policy Research during medical school, where she conducted research assessing health disparities in urologic care and those associated with culturally based practices. Olivia looks forward to continuing serving her community in her career in Pediatrics.
Ramie Aly Fathy

Ramie Fathy graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University, where he obtained an A.B. in Molecular Biology. His undergraduate senior thesis investigated courtship song processing in fruit flies. Before medical school, Ramie spent a year as a patient advocate, health coach, and clinical researcher at UCSF. He is the recipient of a Gamble Scholarship from the University of Pennsylvania, and he was also awarded a scholarship award from the Hearst Foundation for his policy efforts aimed at expanding access to telehealth as a medical student. At Penn, Ramie has been involved in numerous medical education efforts, including serving as his class's curriculum chair, projects comparing and evaluating various educational resources as well as the development of Antiviral: the COVID-19 podcast for health professions students. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ramie founded and directed the Philadelphia Organization of Health Professions Students, a group of over 2,500 members across the Philadelphia area who collaborated on projects aimed at mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on the community. Ramie also served as a student coordinator of the United Community Clinic. Seeking to empower the general public with information and combat medical misinformation, Ramie has also explored medical writing through the media, publishing articles with Medscape, Vice, and the Philadelphia Inquirer and serving as the first medical student intern with ABC News's Medical Unit. Funded by a FOCUS student fellowship grant, Ramie conducted research on the skin manifestations of COVID-19 and possible cutaneous reactions to COVID vaccines. Ramie is looking forward to a career in complex medical dermatology.
Charles Generotti

Charles graduated summa cum laude from Gettysburg College in 2016, earning a B.S. in Health Sciences. Before starting medical school in 2017, he spent a year developing a new diagnostic medical device outside of Philadelphia. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Charles devoted significant efforts towards teaching and peer mentorship through the medEd club and tutoring. Between his 3rd and 4th year, he completed a year of research working to develop a serum biomarker of ototoxicity. Charles is excited to begin his training in Otolaryngology at NYU this summer.
Michelle Guo

Michelle Guo graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 2017 with an A.B. in Molecular and Cellular Biology. As an undergraduate, she co-founded Harvard Artistz (HARTZ), a volunteer organization bringing interactive art projects to a local nursing home. At Perelman, Michelle coordinated the Educational Pipeline Program for Philadelphia high school students. As President of the Refugee Health Interest Group, she advocated for the development of a curriculum for all medical students about working with interpreters. Michelle pursued multiple research interests, receiving the Jeffrey W. Berger Ophthalmology Award for her glaucoma research and the Research Paper Prize for her work describing sarcopenia in survivors of pediatric neuroblastoma. Michelle is excited to stay at Penn for her residency in Ophthalmology.
Allison J. Hare

Allison graduated with comprehensive honors and a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2017. There, she received the Theodore Herfurth Award for Comprehensive Undergraduate Excellence, awarded annually to the top two graduating seniors at the university. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, she completed a year-out fellowship with Penn Medicine’s Office of the CMIO to work on system-level initiatives in clinical information technology including telehealth delivery models, remote patient monitoring, and social needs screening, for which she was awarded a $20,000 grant. She is interested in using applied clinical informatics, behavioral science, and policy to improve the accessibility, costs, and quality of healthcare in her career as an internal medicine physician.
Sohaib Khalid Hashmi

Sohaib Hashmi graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013 with a B.S. in Bioengineering. As an undergrad, Sohaib worked on initiatives to advocate for the needs of international students. After graduating from Penn, Sohaib co-founded BioBots, a 3D bioprinting company to make desktop bioprinters accessible to research labs. During his PhD, Sohaib developed a novel framework for understanding the pathophysiology of visceral myopathy. As a chief teaching assistant for the student ultrasound curriculum, Sohaib started a program to offer ultrasound training to MD-PhDs returning to clinics who did not have a formalized ultrasound curriculum in their pre-clinical years. Sohaib is looking forward to a clinical and research career in Internal Medicine.
Patricia Hernández

Patricia Hernández graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University in 2018, earning a bachelors in Molecular Biology and Global Health Policy. Her research on the Characterization of a Gene Signature Predictive of Response to Ovarian Cancer Targeted Therapy earned her a Princeton Senior Thesis Prize in Molecular Biology. While at Princeton, she was co-chair of Princeton Latinos y Amigos, head fellow for the Scholars Institute Fellowship Program, a learning consultant, and an organic chemistry and physics tutor. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Patricia was a clinic volunteer at Puentes de Salud and served as co-chair for UPenn’s Latino Medical Student Association. Her interests in point of care ultrasound led her to teach preclinical students as a chief-ultrasound teaching assistant and earned her the 2021 Academy of Emergency Ultrasound Medical Student POCUS Educational Scholarship. Her leadership roles as an active member of the Alliance of Minority Physicians group and as Emergency Medicine Education Chair earned her the Emergency Medical Minute Diversity and Inclusion Award. Patricia looks forward to a career in Emergency Medicine at the Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Mass General Brigham.
Maguire Lee Herriman

Maguire Herriman graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 2016 with a degree in public and international affairs. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, his activities included co-coordinating the PennMed Forum on Healthcare Reform and teaching anatomy and ICM courses. He also conducted behavioral economics research investigating biases that distort and delay safety interventions in youth sports. During the early days of the pandemic, he led a collaboration between Penn Medicine and Google to create a COVID-19 chatbot and triage tool. He also completed an MBA at The Wharton School. He looks forward to pursuing a residency in internal medicine at Brigham & Women’s Hospital and a career in health system leadership.
Mitchell A. Johnson

Mitchell Johnson graduated summa cum laude from the University of Michigan in 2017, earning a B.S.E. in biomedical engineering. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, he has been committed to supporting Philadelphia’s underserved populations as a leader for both the University City Hospitality Coalition Clinic and the Orthopaedic Community Clinic. Mitchell was awarded the Benjamin Fox Orthopaedic Research Scholar Award through the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where he has completed multiple research projects relating to improvements in pediatric orthopaedic care. He looks forward to a career in Orthopaedic Surgery.
Ian J. McCurry

Ian McCurry graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in 2017. Prior to medical school he founded and managed a community health worker program for homeless adults in Philadelphia. He also worked as an adjunct clinical chaplain at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He has continued his pastoral work on nights and weekends throughout his years at the Perelman School of Medicine. His time at Perelman sparked clinical interests in surgery, critical care, and the ways that patients and families experience the end of life. Ian has pursued research in end-of-life care, surgical outcomes and clinical ethics. He eventually hopes to become a trauma surgeon.
Elana Meer graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 2017, earning a B.A. in neuroscience. Her research in Neuroeconomics earned her distinction in her major and multiple research awards. While at Perelman School of Medicine, Elana has been committed to mentoring, serving the community, and collaboration through her work as co-chair of Penn SightSavers, the Ophthalmology Interest Group, and in establishing the Ophthalmology Mentorship Program. Through her roles as President of PennHealthX and VP of Curriculum in PennHealthTech she was able to help foster relationships across the UPenn graduate school community, which resulted in the founding of several student run companies focused on healthcare, innovation, and technology. She is also dedicated to innovation in healthcare delivery and has worked closely with the Department of Ophthalmology while earning her MBA to bolster and optimize telemedicine utilization, maximize cost savings from chart coding and encounter closures, and to develop and launch an ophthalmology triage tool to facilitate appropriate patient triage and appointment scheduling. Elana was also awarded the Clinical Neurosciences Training Program Research Award, and has conducted several clinical research projects within ophthalmology, focused on outcomes and/or novel treatment modalities in cataract surgery, glaucoma, orbital trauma and fracture management, optic neuritis, spaceflight associated neuro-ocular syndrome, and periocular cancers. She has also enjoyed engaging with peers and patients in a variety of ways, including singing to patients and in multiple bands. Elana looks forward to a career on Ophthalmology.
Kobina Gumiye Mensah-Brown

Kobie Mensah-Brown graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015, earning a BSE in Bioengineering with minors in Biophysics and Mathematics. During medical school, he studied the neural activity of human brain organoids in the lab of Dr. Isaac Chen, earning an MS in Translational Research with certificates in Academic Surgery and Clinical Neurosciences Training. He is also passionate about Surgical Innovation and has applied his background in Computer Science to Augmented Reality & AI applications for neurosurgery. He was also active within the Penn community serving as a four-year member on the Committee on Admissions, SNMA Academic Chair & AMP Liaison, and volunteer for UCHC. He was heavily involved in the Langfitt Neurosurgery Society throughout Medical School, currently serving as president, with significant time spent on mentorship and neurosurgical education throughout the years. Kobie looks forward to a career in Neurosurgery.
Vivek Nimgaonkar

Vivek Nimgaonkar graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania's Roy and Dianna Vagelos Life Sciences and Management Dual Degree Program. He majored in Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences and Business Econ. and Health Care Management in the Wharton School. Vivek performed bench research for a year in Penn's Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute before starting medical school. While in medical school, he has continued to be involved in cancer research and took a year between his third and fourth years to complete a research fellowship with Penn's Center for Precision Medicine. Vivek looks forward to starting his career with internal medicine residency this summer.
Olivia Margaret Oldridge

Prior to matriculating at the Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM), Olivia Oldridge completed a B.A. in physics at Wesleyan University, a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Pennsylvania, and a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer genomics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. At PSOM, she founded and served as President of the Student Curriculum Council, the curriculum-facing branch of student government. She represented PSOM as a student delegate to the Association of American Medical Colleges, and served as one of two students nationally on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the accrediting body for U.S. medical schools. Olivia looks forward to a career in Internal Medicine with a focus on medical education.
Chiara Pandolfi de Rinaldis

Chiara Pandolfi de Rinaldis earned her B.A. in Comparative Human Development from the University of Chicago in 2016. While at PSOM, Chiara obtained a medical education certificate and served as a Chief TA for Anatomy and two-time president of the Medical Education Club. She took a year out to obtain an MPH and has been working on a capstone project assessing the impact of a multi-level intervention aimed at improving dietary disparities among low-income children. Chiara also conducted research on aortic root dilation in children with 22q11.2 deletions. She looks forward to a career in pediatrics with a plan to subspecialize in Emergency Medicine or Critical Care.
Nick Perkons graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 2014, earning a S.B. in Engineering Sciences. While at Penn, Nick completed his PhD in Bioengineering with Dr. Terence Gade. Nick’s research at the intersection of cancer metabolism and molecular imaging investigated the use of hyperpolarized magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging to quantify treatment efficacy for hepatocellular carcinoma. Nick is the recipient of an NIH NRSA fellowship, the Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation’s Allied Scientist Grant, the Solomon R. Pollack Award for the best PhD thesis in the Department of Bioengineering, and the Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation’s Excellence in Innovation Award. Nick aims to become a physician scientist in Interventional Radiology and looks forward to beginning his residency at Duke.
Sara R. Rendell

Sara Rendell graduated Summa Cum Laude from Saint Louis University in 2012 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Neuroscience, earning honors distinction in her major. Prior to matriculating to the Perelman School of medicine, she learned Moore and pursued a Fulbright Scholarship-funded ethnographic study in Burkina Faso the needs of Mossi women engaging with state-sponsored maternal health care. She joined the MD/PhD program earning her PhD in Anthropology in 2020 studying immigrant health and civil legal needs, and medical-legal partnership models. During her graduate studies she was hired as a consultant to the World Health Organization for several years, including to carry out global maternal immunization research. While at Perelman, she served on the MSTP steering committee and the committee on admissions. She also served as Education Director for the Philadelphia Human Rights clinic. Sara looks forward to a career in Internal Medicine.
Sabine Schneider

Sabine graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. At MIT, Sabine was a member of the MIT Varsity Lightweight Crew team and pursued stem cell biology research. At the Perelman School of Medicine, Sabine completed a PhD focused on enteric nervous system biology and she was awarded the Dr. William Jeffers Prize for meritorious laboratory research in the field of neurology. In addition, Sabine led the Association of Women Student MD-PhDs, served as a student representative to the MSTP steering committee and MSTP executive council, assisted in Penn MSTP recruitment efforts, and served as a teaching assistant for the course Cell and Tissue Biology.
Sammy Tadros graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2017, earning a B.S. in Biological Sciences. Following his undergraduate studies, he earned a Masters of Law degree from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, focusing on FDA regulation of new pharmaceuticals. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Sammy was involved with UCHC, a free clinic serving disadvantaged members of the West Philadelphia community, and helped the clinic develop a triaging pathway for eye-related complaints at the clinic. He also interned under the Chief Quality Officer at UPHS, and performed a comparative quality analysis of the health system's highest volume surgical procedures, and presented these findings to organizational leadership. In addition, Sammy was involved in numerous research projects with the pediatric ophthalmology department at CHOP, focusing on dermoid cyst rupture, nasolacrimal duct obstruction, and strabismus surgery. He looks forward to a career in Ophthalmology.
Brandon White

Brandon graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 2017 simultaneously earning a B.S. and M.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering while playing on the varsity soccer team. While at PSOM, Brandon served multiple leadership positions including President of the Agnew Surgery Society, Chief Anatomy TA, and Co-President of the Ultrasound Interest Group. Brandon also engaged in high impact basic science research around pediatric gene therapy culminating in multiple first-author publications as well earning the 2021 AOA Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship and the Jonathan Rhoads Prize for Surgical Scholarship. Brandon looks forward to pursuing a PhD during General Surgery residency and building a career at the intersection of surgery, science, and entrepreneurship.
Cheyenne Williams graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary in 2016, earning a B.S. in Biology with honors. While at Penn, Cheyenne was heavily involved in medical education efforts including serving four years on the medical school Committee of Admissions and completing dual certificates in Medical Education and Academic Surgery. She additionally served on the executive boards of the Gold Humanism Honors Society, the Agnew Surgical Society, and the Medical Student Government. During medical school, Cheyenne was selected as a NIH Medical Research Scholar, and she was funded to spend a year at the National Cancer Institute researching novel imaging techniques for prostate cancer. Her research has been published in Journal of Clinical Oncology, Journal of Urology, Urology and Applied Clinical Informatics. Cheyenne looks forward to a career in Urology.
Ziyang Xu

Ziyang Xu, Ph.D, is currently a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, and an MD-PhD candidate in the graduating class of 2022. He graduated summa cum laude from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA in 2015, receiving a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and mathematics. He received his Ph.D from Pharmacology Graduate Group of the University of Pennsylvania in 2020, winning a prestigious Saul Winegrad Award for Outstanding Dissertation. His research mainly focuses on using synthetic nucleic acids to direct vivo production of next-generation nanoparticle vaccines for enhanced adaptive immunity and reduced dose requirement. He has successfully applied this model to infectious diseases (SARS-CoV-2, HIV, and influenza) and cancer (melanoma). He currently has 35 publications, including 10 first-author manuscripts in journals such as Nature Communications, Advanced Science, Journal of Clinical Investigation, and Cancer immunology Research. He currently also serves in the editorial board of Frontiers in Tropical Diseases. He intends to pursue a career in investigative dermatology and work on development of anti-melanoma vaccines
and immunotherapies upon graduation from medical school, and will be pursuing further
dermatology training at NYU.

Kimberley Yu

Kimberley Yu graduated magna cum laude with Highest Honors from Harvard
University in 2017, earning a B.A. in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a Minor in
Computer Science. After college, she worked for almost a year as a Computational
Geneticist at genetic research startup GenePeeks. At the Perelman School of Medicine,
Kimberley has been passionate about the reciprocal impacts of healthcare and climate
change, for example leading the Healthcare Sustainability Group. She also conducts
research on inflammatory eye diseases, including Sjogren’s syndrome, dry eye, and
uveitis, at Scheie and CHOP. She looks forward to a career in Ophthalmology. Next year,
she will be starting intern year at the USC Roski Eye Institute.
Salina Gin-Schuan Yuan

Salina Yuan graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University in 2013, earning a A.B. in Molecular Biology. Her undergraduate research earned her the departmental senior thesis prize. She joined the Penn MD-PhD program in 2013. Her work as a thesis student in Ben Stanger’s lab helped to elucidate the epigenetic mechanisms underlying epithelial and immune microenvironment plasticity in pancreatic cancer, leading to multiple publications. She also mentored several students in the lab, from undergraduates with no lab experience to more senior graduate students. While at Penn, Salina was highly involved in the MSTP community, serving on multiple committees and as co-chair of the Association of Women Student MD-PhDs, student leader during interview days, and class representative to the MSTP steering committee. Salina looks forward to a career as a neuro-oncologist and physician-scientist.
Zachary Zapatero graduated magna cum laude from the Davidson College in 2017, earning a B.S. in Biology. His research in immunology as an undergraduate earned him distinction in his major. Alongside his academic pursuits, he was a varsity athlete on the Davidson Men's tennis team. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Zack has held many leadership roles and volunteered on the Greater Philadelphia Covid-19 Hotline to spread medically accurate information to the Pennsylvania general public during the initial Covid-19 outbreak. Zack took a year out to serve as a plastic surgery clinical research fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where he published on a variety of craniofacial topics. Zack looks forward to a career in plastic surgery.
Cindy Siyang Zhao

Cindy graduated cum laude with an A.B. in Statistics and a minor in Global Health & Health Policy from Harvard College in 2017. At Penn, she has most loved her time with clinics for the underserved: she helped introduce electronic medical records to PSOM’s student-run clinics as a board member of the University City Hospitality Coalition Clinic and worked extensively for the Center for Surgical Health. She took a year out to pursue an MD/MBA, during which she interned with the Clinton Health Access Initiative and spent a month with the Indian Health Services in Alaska. She has also led backpacking trips for classmates and completed research on health disparities and gun violence. Cindy is excited to begin a career in ophthalmology at Stanford next year.
Saïd Azoury is in his chief year of the independent plastic surgery training program and is pursuing a career in reconstructive microsurgery. He was born in Beirut, Lebanon and grew up in Norfolk, Virginia. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia and medical school at Eastern Virginia Medical School. He then began general surgery residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2011. He took a 2-year research sabbatical (2013-2015) to pursue a non-accredited surgical oncology clinical and research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under the auspices of Dr. Steven Rosenberg. At the NIH, he studied melanoma immunology and esophageal/head & neck tumor epigenetics specifically related to cigarette and hookah smoke funded by an FDA grant. He then returned to Johns Hopkins to complete his general surgery residency and chief year in 2018. Upon completion of general surgery, he pursued additional subspecialty training in plastic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania where he has developed a passion for oncologic reconstruction and lower extremity salvage. A primary research focus of his currently has been to create and disseminate the Lower Extremity Guidelines for Salvage (L.E.G.S.) to help facilitate transfer of patients to specialized centers following severe trauma, which is supported by a grant from the Center for Human Appearance. He currently serves on the editorial board for the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Journal as a resident ambassador. Following graduation later this year, he will pursue a final year of fellowship training in reconstructive microsurgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York. Saïd is a loving husband to Brittney Azoury, one of the CRNAs of Penn Medicine, and father of Mary and Georgeanna Azoury.
Dr. Michael Eby is in his final year of Orthopaedic Surgery residency. He was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and first came to the University of Pennsylvania for his undergraduate studies. He earned his medical degree from Georgetown University before returning to Penn for his residency training. A lifelong hobby of woodworking instilled in him by his father made orthopaedics a natural fit. He particularly enjoys working with his hands in the operating room, spending time talking with patients, and teaching younger residents and medical students. He devoted a year during residency to work on translational tissue engineering for the knee and spine in the McKay research lab. As a senior resident, his academic interests have shifted to focus on leadership development. This grew to working with faculty from the orthopaedic department and The Wharton School to deliver formal leadership training tailored to surgeons in training. He was selected as an administrative chief resident and is headed to Atlanta, Georgia to complete a fellowship in spine surgery when he graduates in June.
Ariel Frost, MD

Dr. Frost is a rising Chief Resident in Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Frost majored in Classics and graduated Cum Laude from Princeton University and went on to earn her medical degree from Wake Forest, completing an additional year in Pathology at Stanford University. Prior to medical school, Dr. Frost raced competitively in rowing and was elected Team Captain for the NCAA Division I Princeton Rowing Team, won 8 National Championships, 1 World Championship, and was an Olympic Games Candidate. Much of her work as a resident has been inspired by the qualities instilled in her as a competitive rower, including a drive towards both self-improvement and cultivating team dynamic. She was awarded the Department of Otorhinolaryngology’s Pilot Grant in support of her innovative research on wearable video technology for surgical education, utilizing a head-mounted GoPro to build a video library, perform video-based coaching, and live-stream operations to medical students during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is applying for a Fellowship in Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and is interested in a career in academic medicine.
D. Alan Herbst, MD

Alan Herbst graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2010, earning a dual major B.A. degree in History and Psychology. He completed the University of Pennsylvania 1-year Pre-Medicine Post-Baccalaureate program in 2012 and attended medical school at the Perelman School of Medicine from 2013-2017. While at Perelman, Alan was active in several educational programs including two camps for high school students interested in medicine, and he served as a Chief Anatomy TA during his 4th year. With regards to leadership, he served on the UCHC Medical Clinic board and founded the Agnew Surgery Clinic, which would later become the Center for Surgical Health. For his efforts, he was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. In 2017, Alan started general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, he is pursuing a Master of Science in Translational Research, serves as the Associate Director of Clinics for the Center for Surgical Health, and is pursuing a career in academic Cardiac Surgery.
Matthew Goldshore, MD, PhD, MPH

Matt is a PGY-5 general surgery resident planning on a career in pediatric general, thoracic and fetal surgery. He grew up in Chappaqua, New York and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in Biochemistry and Secondary Science Education. After a short time teaching high school chemistry, Matt matriculated into the MPH program at the George Washington University (GWU) School of Public Health where he studied prevention of maternal-to-child transmission of HIV and worked as a lay midwife in East Africa. After completion of his MPH, he started medical school at GWU. After completing his second year of training, Matt took a leave of absence to pursue his PhD in perinatal epidemiology in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He moved back to Washington, DC in 2014 to complete medical school and started residency at Penn in 2016.

Matt completed a pediatric surgical critical care fellowship at HUP/CHOP during his first professional development year and is exclusively participating in research and surgical health/surgical equity program development during his second year in the “lab.” Matt’s current research is situated in the CHOP Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment where he uses life course and social epidemiologic methodologies to study long-term outcomes for children and families impacted by congenital surgical disease. In addition, Matt serves as the Deputy Director of the Center for Surgical Health, an interdisciplinary academic-community partnership housed in the Department of Surgery at Penn Medicine whose goal is to support, educate and advocate for vulnerable Philadelphians with surgical disease.
Dr. Roxanne Unger is an OB/GYN resident at Pennsylvania Hospital. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, she arrived in Philadelphia by way of New York City and New Orleans, where she completed a film degree and a medical degree at Columbia University and Tulane University respectively. Since transitioning to the medical field after working in film, she has found her passion in Women’s Health. As a medical student, her extracurricular time was spent on reproductive justice advocacy. During residency, she has dedicated herself to providing quality patient care while fostering a supportive learning environment. She has worked on labor and delivery quality improvement projects and research involving vaccinations in pregnancy. She was recently elected as administrative chief resident of her program. Following residency, she plans to pursue a career as a generalist with her specific interests being in labor and delivery, abortion care, and minimally invasive GYN surgery.

Faculty Inductees

DaCarla M. Albright, MD
Dr. DaCarla M. Albright is an Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Wellness at the Perelman School of Medicine. Clinically, Dr. Albright has a thriving practice as an academic generalist Obstetrician/Gynecologist, and has been in practice for nearly 20 years. She emphasizes wellness and prevention in women’s health care and has a strong interest in breast health and screening practices.

Dr. Albright is a member of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO). As a result of her excellence in teaching and empathetic approach to medical care, Dr. Albright has been awarded a Perelman School of Medicine Penn Pearls Teaching Award and has been a Gold Humanism Honor Society Faculty Inductee. Since 2018, she has also been identified as a Top Doc in Obstetrics and Gynecology by Philadelphia Magazine and in the region.

Dr. Albright received her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, followed by a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. In her early career, she practiced at Jamaica Hospital in Queens, New York, transitioning to private practice at Lenox Hill Hospital until her relocation to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2008.

Dr. Albright is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is an avid cyclist, enjoys Peloton when indoors, her favorite sport is football, and she continues to enjoy cooking Louisiana favorites in her spare time.
Dr. DeLisser is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Division of the Department of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania. Dr. DeLisser has had longstanding interests in physician professionalism, doctor-patient communication, medical ethics, end-of-life issues, cultural competency and religion and spirituality in medicine. He is currently the Associate for Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania where he leads the Program for Diversity and Inclusion (PDI). In this role he has implemented innovative approaches for promoting a diverse and inclusive medical student community. He has also been very active in medical education at Perelman, particularly with respect to the professionalism and humanism module of the medical student curriculum. In this role he has led curricular innovations in the teaching of social medicine, medical humanities and spirituality and health, and in promoting medical student wellness and self-care.
Dr. Dunham studied fine arts as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. While a medical student at Stanford University, he became interested in both surgery and medical illustration. After graduating from Stanford in 1998, he had the good fortune of doing his otolaryngology/head and neck surgery residency at Johns Hopkins, where he was able to study medical illustration also. He graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2005 with advanced training in otology/neurotology and went on to complete a two-year pediatric otolaryngology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He has been an attending in the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology at CHOP since 2007. He founded Stream Studios at the Children's Hospital in 2013. Since that time, the studio has produced approximately 1,000 illustrations and has recently embarked on developing 3D surgical simulators as well as medical devices.
Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSHP

Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSHP is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care, and Emergency Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, where she completed a fellowship in Trauma Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. Her research focuses on reducing the harmful impacts of traumatic injuries on individuals and communities. Dr. Kaufman studies both injury prevention and the role of clinical care in patients' physical and psychosocial recovery from injury. She has used quantitative, qualitative and geospatial methods to evaluate the impact of public policy on injury and injury-related mortality, as well as to study the quality and outcomes of care for traumatic injuries. She holds an MD from Harvard Medical School, and an MSHP from the University of Pennsylvania.
Dr. Raina M. Merchant is an Associate Vice President at Penn Medicine and a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She has secondary appointments in the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Division of General Internal Medicine, and Division of Health Policy. She is the Director of the Penn Medicine Center for Digital Health and Co-Director of the Penn National Clinician Scholars Program. Dr. Merchant attended Yale University for her undergraduate degree, University of Chicago for Medical School, and the University of Pennsylvania for a Masters of Science in Health Policy Research and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. Her research is at the intersection of digital media and health. She has specifically conducted projects evaluating health behaviors and communication using digital platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Yelp, Instagram, Reddit, and Google. One of her projects involves “banking language” through the development of a unique longitudinal database of social media data merged with health record data. Much of her work also bridges new technologies in the fields of cardiovascular health, mental health, cancer care, disaster medicine, public health, and resuscitation science.

Dr. Merchant has been continuously funded by the NIH since 2011 and has over 140 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as NEJM, JAMA, Circulation, and Health Affairs. Her work has been featured in Wired, the Economist, New York Times, the Atlantic and others. She is a member of the editorial board of JAMA. She is an Aspen Health Innovators Fellow and was recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as one of 10 young investigators likely to have a significant impact on the future of health and healthcare in the US. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.
Dr. David Spiegel works as a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, specializing in neuromuscular diseases, trauma, and spinal deformities and is a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and a PENN Center for Global Health (CGH) Scholar. He attended Duke University for college, medical school, and orthopaedic surgical residency training, and then completed both a research and a clinical fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

He has served as an Honorary Consultant in Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at the Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children in Banepa, Nepal, for 25 years and is an Honorary Professor at the University of Basrah, Iraq. He has served on many national committees including Children’s Orthopaedics in Underdeveloped Regions of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA), the Bone and Joint Decade committee (POSNA), the Global Courses Committee (POSNA), and the International Committee of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons where he directed their international scholars program. He has been on the Advisory Board of Orthopaedics Overseas, Global-HELP, the Ponseti International Association, Miracle Feet, and the Global Clubfoot Initiative. He has served as a consultant for the World Health Organization in Mongolia and Somalia and was on the steering committee for the WHO’s Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care. He has delivered nearly 400 invited lectures, mostly at international sites including Nepal, Iran, Iraq, China, Pakistan, Tanzania, Mongolia and Somalia. He has also co-edited a textbook entitled “Global Orthopaedics: Caring for Musculoskeletal Conditions and Injuries in Austere Settings”.

He has received the President's Call to Service Award for 4000 hours of community service (2006), the Golden Apple Award by Health Volunteers Overseas (2009), the humanitarian Award from the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (2013), the Walter P. Blount humanitarian award from the Scoliosis Research Society (2016), and the humanitarian award from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (2017).
Rita F. Redberg, MD, MSc, is a cardiologist and Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco since 1990 and Core Faculty, Philip R Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies. After growing up in Brooklyn, she graduated from Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. She got a Master's degree at the London School of Economics as a University of Pennsylvania Thouron Fellow. Dr. Redberg is the Chief Editor of *JAMA Internal Medicine* since 2009 and has spearheaded the journal’s new focus on health care reform and “less is more”. Her research interests are in the area of health policy and technology assessment, and how to promote high value care, focusing on high risk medical devices as well as the need for inclusion of women in clinical trials of such devices.

Dr. Redberg recently completed a 6 year term on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, which advises Congress on Medicare payment issues. She also served on the Medicare Evidence, Development and Coverage Advisory Committee from 2003-2006 and was reappointed as its Chairwoman from 2012 - 2016.

She has given Congressional testimony multiple times in hearings related to the issue of balancing safety and innovation in medical device approvals. Dr. Redberg worked in the office of Senator Hatch and with the Senate Judiciary Committee on FDA-related matters.
during her tenure as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, 2003-2006. Dr. Redberg is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Robert K. Ross, M.D., is president and chief executive officer for The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation established in 1996 to address the health needs of Californians. Prior to his appointment in July 2000, Dr. Ross served as director of the Health and Human Services Agency for the County of San Diego from 1993 to 2000.

Dr. Ross has an extensive background in health philanthropy, as a public health administrator, and as a clinician. His service includes: Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Public Health; medical director for LINK School-Based Clinic Program, Camden, New Jersey; instructor of clinical medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; and faculty member at San Diego State University’s School of Public Health.

Dr. Ross has been actively involved in community and professional activities at both the local and national level. He is a member of the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, Co-Chair, Diversity in Philanthropy Coalition, and has served as a member of the California Health Benefit Exchange Board, the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Board, National Vaccine Advisory Committee, and on the boards of Grantmakers in Health, the National Marrow Donor Program, San Diego United Way and Jackie Robinson YMCA. He is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Pediatrics, served on the President’s Summit for America’s Future and as chairman of the national Boost for Kids Initiative, and was honored by the Council on Foundations as the Distinguished Grantmaker of the Year for 2008. Dr. Ross received his undergraduate, masters in Public Administration and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.
Jeannie T Lee is The Philip A. Sharp, PhD, Endowed Chair in Molecular Biology, Professor of Genetics (and Pathology) at Harvard Medical School, and Vice Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Lee specializes in the study of epigenetic regulation by long noncoding RNAs and uses X-chromosome inactivation as a model system. She is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Harrington Rare Disease Scholar of the Harrington Discovery Institute, a recipient of the Lurie Prize from the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, an awardee of the Centennial Prize from the Genetics Society of America, the 2010 Molecular Biology Prize and the 2020 Cozzarelli Prize from the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Lee was also named a Distinguished Graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. From 2013-2018, she co-launched the Epigenetics Initiative at Harvard Medical School and served as its Co-Director. Serving on the Board of Directors of the Genetics Society of America (GSA), Dr. Lee spearheaded the TAGC (The All-Genetics) Conference in 2016. As GSA's President, Dr. Lee established a Strategic Plan and a Development strategy for the society in 2018. She received her A.B. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Harvard University and obtained M.D.-Ph.D degrees from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Lee then carried out postdoctoral work at the Whitehead Institute & MIT and became Chief Resident of Clinical Pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital prior to joining the Faculty at Harvard Medical School. As a new investigator, she received the Basil O’Connor Scholar Award from the March of Dimes and the Pew Scholars Award. To translate basic knowledge to the clinic, Dr. Lee co-founded Translate Bio and Fulcrum Therapeutics, two biotech companies specializing in RNA and epigenetic therapies.

A Special Thanks to Faculty who Served on the AOA Selection Committee

David Aizenberg, MD  
Clinical Medicine

Benjamin M. Braslow, MD  
Surgery