Induction of the Class of 2021

Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, May 13th, 2021
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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

Ashok Linganna, MD, MSEd Assistant
Professor of Clinical Medicine at the
Perelman 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 is the only national honor medical society in the world. Its *raison d’etre* 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.”
Ashok Linganna, MD, MSEd

Ashok Linganna is an assistant professor of clinical medicine and an academic hospitalist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP). He came to the University of Pennsylvania in 2015 after completing his internal medicine residency and chief residency at the University of California, Irvine. Since arriving in Philadelphia, he has focused his energy on the needs of undergraduate and graduate learners. For the past five years, he has served as the co-director of the sub-internship for internal medicine and was recently named the associate director of undergraduate medical education in internal medicine. During this time, he obtained a master’s degree in medical education from Penn and has become renowned for his educational prowess, earning a Penn Pearl and the John M. Eisenberg Teaching award. Further, in 2020, he was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society.
Alpha Omega Alpha  
Beta Chapter  
Perelman School of  
Medicine University of  
Pennsylvania Class of 2021

Students
Modupe Olufunmilayo Adetunji  
Divyansh Agarwal  
Christina Elisabeth Hedy Bax  
Dana Christine Bellissimo  
Joshua Turner Bram  
John Logan Brock  
Laura Ashley Burkbauer  
Elizabeth Blair Card  
Alexis Victoria Chaet-Lopez  
Alyssa Marie Civantos  
Nabil F. Darwich  
Robert Lawrence Dilley  
Matthew Michael Duda  
Joshua Benjamin Franklin  
Beatrice Ching Chen Go  
Ben Jiahe Gu  
Sebastián Gualy  
Laura Christina Hernandez-Miyares  
Amanda Elizabeth Jones  
Carrie Jing Li  
Govind Srijhari Mattay  
Jaclyn Theresa Mauch  
Elizabeth Berryhill McCarty  
Carrie Zimmerman Morales  
Hillary Elizabeth Mulvey  
Whitney Ugonne Orji  
Viren Patel  
Daniel Resnick  
Daniel Camargo Stokes  
Katherine Margaret Szigety  
Erik Xiaochao Tan

Residents
Said Azoury, MD  
Michael Eby, MD, MS  
Ariel Frost, MD  
Matthew Goldshore, MD, PhD, MPH  
D. Alan Herbst, MD  
Roxanne Unger, MD

Faculty
DaCarla M. Albright, MD  
Horace DeLisster, MD  
Brian Dunham, MD  
Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSHP  
Raina Merchant, MD  
David Spiegel, MD

Alumni
Helene D. Gayle, M81  
Philomena McAndrew, M78

Chapter Counselor
Sharon Lewis, MD
Modupe Olufunmilayo Adetunji

Modupe Adetunji obtained her A.B. in Molecular Biology at Princeton University in 2016. As an undergraduate, she engaged in glaucoma research at the National Eye Institute. During her time at the Perelman School of Medicine, she served as co-president of the Perelman chapter of the Student National Medical Association and mentored underrepresented pre-medical undergraduate students through the Johnson Scholars Program. She served as a student coordinator of several free community clinics, including the University City Hospitality Coalition free medical clinic and the Center for Surgical Health. She was a coordinator of the Ophthalmology Interest group and a coordinator of Student Sight Savers. Modupe looks forward to a career in ophthalmology.

Divyansh Agarwal

Divyansh Agarwal graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with exceptional distinction in Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology from the Yale University in 2015, earning both a B.S. and an M.S. For his applied math research on modeling breast cancer risk using statistical genetics, he won the Yale University’s Edgar J. Boell and the William R. Belknap Prizes. He was also awarded the 2015 Thomas J. Bardos Science Education Award by the American Association for Cancer Research as well as the 2014 Michael Manzella Foundation Cancer Research Fellowship. While at Penn, Divyansh earned a PhD in Computational Biology working on single cell genomics, and was the inaugural Blavatnik Foundation Family Fellow in Biomedical Research at Penn. For the last 4 years, Div has served as a Graduate Associate for Penn's undergraduate college house, Harnwell, and his work has been recognized for Exemplary Leadership for the Penn undergraduate community. He also built on his training as a Yale Journalism Scholar by starting a talk show with physician-scientists, which is now hosted on the Penn MSTP website. Divyansh looks forward to a career as a surgeon-scientist.
Christina Elisabeth Hedy Bax

Christina Bax graduated from Stanford University in 2014, majoring in Human Biology. As a four-year varsity rower, highlights include winning the PAC-12 championships and silver at the NCAA national championships and being named an All-American. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Christina co-founded SunSport Penn, a sun-protection initiative for student-athletes and researched the benefits of telemedicine in underserved populations through Penn’s Botswana program. Funded by an NIH translational research grant, she spent a year investigating rare autoimmune skin diseases. She also worked with an NIH team, studying the role of speech droplets in SARS-CoV-2 transmission and cloth masks as important mitigating factors. This research contributed to the CDC’s guidelines recommending face coverings for the public in April 2020. Christina is looking forward to a career in complex medical dermatology.

Dana Christine Bellissimo

Dana earned a B.S. in Biochemistry with Honors in the Major from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. While at PSOM, Dana completed her PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology with Drs. Nancy Speck and Gary Gilliland. Her research examined the role of the hematopoietic transcription factor Runx1 in regulating cytokine production by neutrophils. Dana received an individual NIH NRSA fellowship and the Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute’s Patel Scholar Award. Dana served on the MSTP Executive Council and the search committee for the Senior Vice Dean for Medical Education, advocating on behalf of student interests. She aims to become a physician scientist practicing pediatric hematology/oncology and looks forward to starting her pediatrics residency at CHOP.
Joshua Turner Bram

Josh Bram graduated Summa Cum Laude from Penn State University in 2016 with degrees in Biology and Immunology & Infectious Disease. After enrolling at the Perelman School of Medicine, Josh quickly became interested in orthopedic surgery and has served on the board of the orthopedics interest group for the past four years. He also developed a passion for medical education, serving as an anatomy and ultrasound teaching assistant. Last, he has been heavily involved in orthopedics research and spent an additional year as a Benjamin Fox Orthopedic Research Fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Josh is excited to move to New York to begin residency at the Hospital for Special Surgery.

John Logan Brock

Logan graduated from the University of Colorado in 2013 with a BA in neuroscience. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Logan was involved with Penn HealthX, serving as a VP of Curriculum and Co-President. He also conducted clinical research in orthopedic surgery and cardiology. He also completed an MBA at the Wharton School. While at Wharton, he completed internships in healthcare investing and management consulting and competed in the Wharton Wildmen Hockey League. Outside of school, he enjoys skiing, triathlons, and travel. Logan looks forward to a career as a biotechnology investor.
Laura Ashley Burkbauer

Laura Burkbauer graduated summa cum laude from Duke University in 2013, earning a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in History. During her time at the Perelman School of Medicine, Laura pursued dual certificate programs in Academic Surgery and Spirituality & Health. She conducted a year of research in breast surgery as a FOCUS Fellow in Women's Health under the mentorship of Dr. Julia Tchou. Laura has also been involved in several diversity initiatives, including Diversity and Inclusion Student Advisory Council, Penn Med Pride, and the Anti-Discrimination in Surgery Conference. She looks forward to returning to North Carolina with her wife and son to begin her training in general surgery.

Elizabeth Blair Card

Elizabeth (Lizz) Card studied Biology and Chinese at Tufts University, where she graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 2014. She then spent one year teaching English at the National University of Laos as a Fulbright Scholar. During medical school, she travelled to Tanzania and Guatemala to research surgical disparities, helped develop a student-run free surgical clinic, and designed two medical humanities electives centered on visual patient communication and observation of anatomy. Lizz took an additional year to learn medical illustration at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Stream Studios, subsequently illustrating for research, public relations, and patient education projects. Lizz is excited to stay at Penn for residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery.
Alexis Victoria Chaet-Lopez

Alexis Chaet-Lopez graduated with a degree in Human Biology from the University of Virginia in 2016, where she first began thinking about a career in family medicine volunteering through the local migrant farmworker outreach group in the orchards surrounding Charlottesville, Virginia. She worked in Mexico in the NGO world prior to coming to Perelman School of medicine. Here she was co-director of the Penn Global Surgery Group and conducted research focusing on physician emigration in Sub-Saharan Africa. She enjoys talking about wellness and is excited to make the move out West where she'll be surrounded by mountains and colleagues passionate about caring for the underserved.

Alyssa Marie Civantos

Alyssa Civantos graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016, earning a B.A. in Cognitive Science with a minor in Hispanic Studies. Alyssa’s contributions to the PSOM community included serving as the Co-Recruitment Chair of the Latino Medical Student Association and as the Co-President of the Otolaryngology Interest Group. Furthermore, she was the first Associate Director of Clinics for the Center for Surgical Health, where she helped develop a model that provides sustainable surgical care for Philadelphia’s most vulnerable patients. While in medical school, Alyssa also pursued a Certificate in Academic Surgery and a Master of Science in Translational Research. Alyssa looks forward to her career in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.
Nabil F. Darwich

Nabil Darwich graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013, earning a B.A. in Biochemistry and Islamic Studies and a M.S. in Chemistry. Nabil matriculated into the MD/PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. He earned his PhD in neuroscience, studying a novel mutation associated with novel neurodegenerative disease. His work helped to elucidate the pathogenesis of a rare disease affecting a small family but also shed light on a novel mechanism involved in Alzheimer’s disease. In his free time, Nabil was an avid member and two time captain of the Penn Med Soccer team. Nabil is excited to begin his career in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery next year.

Robert Lawrence Dilley

Robert graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2011 with a BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology. He joined the Penn MD-PhD program in 2012. As a thesis student in Roger Greenberg's lab, Robert studied DNA repair pathways and mechanisms of telomere maintenance utilized by cancer cells. His work led to multiple publications and presentations at international conferences. While at Penn, Robert was actively involved in mentoring undergraduates in lab as well as prospective medical school applicants. He also maintained political engagement in the community and at school through the Penn Med Votes initiative. Robert is excited to begin training in internal medicine and continue towards his goal of becoming an oncologist and basic scientist.
Matthew Michael Duda

Matthew graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015 as a Vagelos Program in the Molecular Life Sciences Scholar with a double-major in Biochemistry and Biology as well as a Master's in Chemistry. Before attending medical school, he served as a high school chemistry teacher with Teach for America: Los Angeles and completed a Master's in Urban Education: Policy and Administration at Loyola Marymount University. As a Medical Student, Matthew served as a D. Hayes Agnew Surgery Society Education Co-Chair and developed a near-peer mentorship program for the surgery clerkship. He also studied solid organ transplant allocation as an Agnew Research Scholar and co-founded the Cardiothoracic Surgery Interest Group. Outside the hospital, Matthew enjoys running, hip-hop dancing, and traveling. Matthew is looking forward to training in cardiothoracic surgery at Stanford University.

Joshua Benjamin Franklin

Josh graduated in 2011 from Princeton University, where he majored in Anthropology with a Certificate in Portuguese Language and Culture. He spent a year conducting ethnographic research on transgender activism and the right to health in Porto Alegre, Brazil as a Fulbright fellow before joining the MD/PhD program in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation research focused on the experiences of transgender young people and their families. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Josh served as the Doctoring IA student co-director, and completed certificates in Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience and College and University Teaching. After graduation, he looks forward to remaining at Penn for psychiatry residency.
Beatrice Ching Chen Go

Beatrice Go graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2016, earning a B.S. in Neuroscience. She spent a year as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Midwest Orthopaedics before matriculating at the Perelman School of Medicine. In medical school, Beatrice served as a coordinator for Unity Health Clinic, a free clinic for uninsured immigrants, and as the operations chair for the Association of Women Surgeons. While her research interests include head and neck cancer outcomes and quality improvement projects, she is also passionate about integrating art with medicine and enjoys writing for Doximity as an Op-Med fellow. Beatrice looks forward to continuing her training in Otolaryngology at Penn.

Ben Jiahe Gu

Ben Gu graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 2016, earning a BS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. His research in microbial pathogenesis earned him a combined MS degree and distinction in his major. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Ben studied brain repair in the lab of Dr. Isaac Chen and earned a MS in Translational Research. He was active in the community, serving as a volunteer and student president of Unity Clinic, an organization providing health care to underserved populations in Philadelphia. He also served as president for the Langiftt Neurosurgery Interest Group during his fourth year. Ben is looking forward to a career in Neurosurgery.
Sebastián Gualy

Sebastián Gualy graduated from Southwestern University with a B.S. in Biology. While in medical school, Sebastián held leadership positions with the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), Penn Med Christian Fellowship (PMCF), and the Penn Global Surgery Group (PGSG). Sebastián is the co-recipient of the Masters of Science in Health Policy Research Medical Student Award in Community Engagement & Health Equity Research. Sebastián volunteered with Covenant House and Puentes de Salud during his time in medical school and recently was inducted into the Penn Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). Most importantly, Sebastián is the husband to Hannah Gualy and dog dad to Astro. He is thankful for the relationships built with his classmates, teachers and community in Philadelphia. Sebastián can’t wait to take care of and advocate for kids and families as a pediatrician.

Laura Christina Hernandez-Miyares

Laura graduated cum laude from Yale University in 2012 with a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, with distinction in the major. After graduation, she spent a year as a clinical research coordinator at the Yale New-Haven Neurology Department, working with stroke survivors. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Laura was the recipient of the 21st Century Scholarship and the American Academy of Neurology Medical Student Diversity Scholarship. She served as a Johnson's Scholar Mentor, co-leader of the Peer tutoring program, and a coordinator for an educational pipeline for Philadelphia high school students. Laura looks forward to a career in Child Neurology!
Amanda Elizabeth Jones

Amanda graduated from Brown University in 2014, earning a B.A. in Community Health. While in medical school, Amanda contributed to numerous research endeavors in gynecology and urology focused on access to care, quality of life, and gender equity in surgery. She is the 2021 recipient of the Renal Research Prize. Amanda’s contributions to the Penn Med community include serving as an academic tutor and Education Chair of the Agnew Surgical Society. Additionally, she was an active volunteer at the United Community Clinic throughout her time at Penn. Outside of academics, she found time to pursue her hobbies of figure skating, yoga and ceramics. Amanda looks forward to her career in Urology.

Carrie Jing Li

Carrie Li graduated magna cum laude from Rice University in 2015, earning a B.S. in Chemistry as well as a graduating award for distinction in creative writing. While at Perelman, Carrie led the medical school’s writing workshop and pursued multiple research interests including analysis of doctor-patient choice architectures and intra-operative fluorescence for brain tumor resections. Outside of school, she served as a writing consultant for a pharmaceutical marketing and development firm. In her fourth year, she initiated an academic collaboration between Penn Neurology, FAME Hospital, and Muhimbili University in Tanzania to create an electronic clinical database for their semiannual neurology clinic. Carrie will be beginning a career in Neurology.
Govind Srihari Mattay

Govind Mattay graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016, earning a B.A.S. in Bioengineering. His academic work and research in bioengineering earned him the Hugo Otto Wolf Prize for thoroughness and originality of work. While at the Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM), Govind conducted research on the impact of novel imaging of informatics interventions. He led several student organizations, including Radiology Interest Group, Healthcare Sustainability Club, and Rhoads House Council. Govind completed an MBA at Wharton, where he concentrated in Health Care Management and was selected to be part of the Director’s List for academic achievement. While at Wharton, he strove to drive innovation in the healthcare industry through his work with several healthcare companies including Genentech. He received the Gamble Scholarship at PSOM and the Heller Fellowship at Wharton. Govind is excited for a career in Radiology.

Jaclyn Theresa Mauch

Jaclyn Mauch graduated from Northwestern University in 2013 with a BA in Economics and minor in Global Health, graduating with Honors in Economics and earning Phi Beta Kappa. Jaclyn worked for two years in Corporate Strategy at DaVita Inc. in the Redwoods Leadership Development Program. She then completed her Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Certificate at Johns Hopkins University. While at the Perelman School of Medicine, Jaclyn earned a Masters in Bioethics and co-founded the Penn Bioethics Student Group. Jaclyn explored her global health interests by serving as the Research Chair of the Penn Global Surgery Group, participating in Alianza Cuba, and completing an elective in Israel. She completed a Fellowship in Clinical Research with the Division of Plastic Surgery, during which she presented research nationally and internationally. In recognition of her research accomplishments, she was awarded the President Gutmann Leadership Award and the Jonathon Rhoads Prize for Surgical Scholarship. Jaclyn is excited for her future career as a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon.
Elizabeth Berryhill McCarty

Elizabeth (Berryhill) McCarty studied Biology and English Literature at Carnegie Mellon University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 2014. While in medical school, Berryhill took an extra year to pursue a Master of the Arts at Penn, designing her own course of study in Medicine and Literature. At Perelman, she helped develop an elective at the Philadelphia Museum of Art focusing on implicit bias, served as president for the Penn Global Surgery Group, and co-founded the Penn Bioethics Student Group. In 2020, she was selected for the competitive medical Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics. Berryhill is thrilled to return to Pittsburgh for residency in Otorhinolaryngology: Head & Neck Surgery.

Carrie Zimmerman Morales

Carrie Zimmerman Morales graduated summa cum laude from Tufts University in 2015. She then worked at the NYU Department of Population Health on an NIH stroke disparities study. At Penn, Carrie served as the Associate Deputy Director of the Center for Surgical Health, a Clinic Coordinator at Puentes de Salud, President of the Plastic Surgery, Interest Group and a member of Penn Medicine’s Office of Inclusion and Diversity’s Advisory Council. Carrie completed a CHOP Plastic Surgery Research Fellowship where she was involved in multiple projects investigating functional outcomes of craniofacial surgery, non-radiative alternatives for craniofacial imaging, and prenatal counseling for craniofacial anomalies. Carrie is thrilled to stay at Penn for her residency in Plastic & Reconstructive surgery.
Hillary Elizabeth Mulvey

Hillary graduated from Brown University in 2014, where she studied biology and was the captain of the swim team. Prior to medical school, Hillary spent three years studying targeted therapies to non-small cell lung cancer at Massachusetts General Hospital. While at Perelman, she co-founded the school’s chapter of the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) and served as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative for the AWS National Medical Student Committee. She also completed the Certificate in Academic Surgery and was involved in various orthopaedic research projects. Hillary is excited to start Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Vanderbilt University in July.

Whitney Ugonne Orji

Whitney Orji graduated from Rice University in 2016, earning a B.S. in Bioengineering and a minor in Global Health Technologies. While at Penn, Whitney volunteered at Covenant House with young adults experiencing housing and other crises and on the board of the Center for Surgical Health, helping marginalized Philadelphians access surgical care. Whitney was devoted to recruitment of groups historically and currently excluded from medicine through Penn SNMA and as a four-year member of the admissions committee. She earned her masters in health policy research and also worked for four years as an RA for Penn undergraduates and spent some time singing with the University Choir. Whitney looks forward to a career in surgery.
Viren Patel

Viren Patel graduated summa cum laude from Temple University, earning a B.S. in Biology in 2012. His research in the epigenetic regulation of neurological cancer cells earned him distinction in his major and led to his nomination to Phi Beta Kappa at the time of graduation. At Perelman, Viren worked extensively with the Center for Surgical Health, a group dedicated to improving access to surgical care for uninsured and undocumented residents in Philadelphia. Viren was also a regular on the Penn Med Club soccer team throughout medical school until when the pandemic occurred. Viren worked as a Penn Plastics Research Fellow between his third and fourth year of medical school, and is looking forward to a career in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Daniel Resnick

Daniel Resnick took a circuitous path to medical school. After graduating Tufts University with a BA in international relations, he worked at a foreign policy think tank in Washington DC. Experiences volunteering in a DC hospital and in a refugee clinic in Israel convinced Dan to pursue a career in medicine. During medical school, he continued to pursue opportunities for community engagement and advocacy. He served as the community outreach coordinator for a free clinic in Parkside, Philadelphia. He also pursued a health policy master’s degree. As part of the degree, he conducted HIV prevention research and led efforts to introduce a bill in the state legislature to increase confidentiality protections for young adults seeking healthcare. Dan is looking forward to a career in internal medicine.
Daniel Camargo Stokes

Prior to medical school, Daniel received a master’s degree in epidemiology from the Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During medical school, he worked with the group Students Opposing Racism in Medicine to host the 2017 Racism in Medicine Conference. He co-founded the Addiction Medicine Interest Group and helped to secure naloxone supply and training for all first year Philadelphia-area medical students. He completed a one-year fellowship with the Center for Emergency Care Policy and Research. His research has focused on using natural language processing to amplify patient voices and experiences of care, and he has had work published in Journal of General Internal Medicine, Academic Medicine, and Psychiatric Services. Daniel looks forward to a career in Internal Medicine.

Katherine Margaret Szigety

Kate graduated cum laude, with distinction, from Yale University in 2012, earning a B.S. and M.S. in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. Eager to pursue her interests in both science and medicine, Kate then joined the Medical Scientist Training Program at the Perelman School of Medicine. In 2020, Kate received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics. Her thesis work with Dr. Sarah Millar characterized the role of histone deacetylase 3 in embryonic epidermal development. While at Penn, Kate served as co-chair of the Association of Women Student MD-PhDs and class representative to the MSTP steering committee. Kate is dedicated to promoting careers in science and medicine and has been actively involved in Penn MSTP recruitment as well as high school and undergraduate outreach. Kate looks forward to a career in Pediatric Genetics.
Erik Xiaochao Tan

Erik Tan graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2017 with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. He came straight through to medical school here at Penn and has been involved in activities including Medical Student Government and the Admissions Committee. After interning at the Center for Health Care Innovation in the summer after first year, he realized a passion for innovation in health care delivery and hopes to explore novel ways to ensure high quality care for all patients. He also completed the Certificate in Medical Education and is especially interested in curriculum development and student assessment. Erik is excited to stay and continue his medical training in Internal Medicine here at Penn!
Saïd Azoury, MD

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.
Michael Eby, MD, MS

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Horace DeLisser, MD

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.

Raina Merchant, MD, MSHP, FAHA
David Spiegel, MD

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).
Alumni Inductees

Helene D. Gayle, M81

Dr. Gayle has been president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, one of the nation’s oldest and largest community foundations, since October 2017. Under her leadership, the Trust has adopted a new strategic focus on closing the racial and ethnic wealth gap in the Chicago region. For almost a decade, Dr. Gayle was president and CEO of CARE, a leading international humanitarian organization. An expert on global development, humanitarian, and health issues, she spent 20 years with the Centers for Disease Control, working primarily on HIV/AIDS. She worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, directing programs on HIV/AIDS and other global health issues.

Dr. Gayle serves on public company and nonprofit boards, including The Coca-Cola Company, Organon, Palo Alto Networks, Brookings Institution, Center for Strategic and International Studies, New America, ONE Campaign, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and Economic Club of Chicago. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Council on Foreign Relations, American Public Health Association, National Academy of Medicine, National Medical Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics.

She was awarded the Chicago Mayor’s Medal of Honor for her work on COVID relief and recovery for the city. Named one of Forbes’ “100 Most Powerful Women” and one of NonProfit Times’ "Power and Influence Top 50," she has authored numerous articles on global and domestic public health issues, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and social justice.

Dr. Gayle was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. She earned a BA in psychology at Barnard College, an MD at the University of Pennsylvania and an MPH at Johns Hopkins University. She has received 18 honorary degrees and holds faculty appointments at the University of Washington and Emory University.
Philomena F. McAndrew, M78

Dr. Philomena McAndrew, a native of Philadelphia, attended Villanova University as an undergraduate and obtained her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency at Temple University Hospital and a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at UCLA. She began her career in full time academic medicine at UCLA School of Medicine. In 1987, she entered practice at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and became one of the founding members of Tower Hematology Oncology Medical Group. Dr. McAndrew has been an investigator on several breast cancer studies, as her special interest is breast and other women’s cancers.
A Special Thanks to Faculty who Served on the AOA Selection Committee

Ronald DeMatteo, MD, FACS  
Surgery

Daniel Dempsey, MD  
Surgery

Deborah Driscoll, MD  
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Lauren Elman, MD  
Neurology

Sean Harbison, MD  
Surgery

Bob Heuckeroth, MD, PhD  
Pediatrics

Meghan Lane-Fall, MD, MSHP  
Anesthesiology

Emma Meagher, MD  
Internal Medicine

Aimee Payne, MD, PhD  
Dermatology

Carrie Sims, MD, PhD  
Surgery

Raymond Soccio, MD, PhD  
Internal Medicine

Joseph W. St. Geme, MD  
Pediatrics

Corrie Stankiewicz, MD  
Internal Medicine