Springing into Action

How Kelly Koay and Andi Shaw are Caring For their Communities

Kelly Koay ('07) practices Med-Peds primary care at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians outside of Baltimore. She also teaches children in her community. Read on to learn more about her work.

What community or advocacy work are you doing?

Together with a few other volunteers, I teach a weekly community-based children’s virtues class based on the principles of the Baha’i Faith. We visit the parents and get to know the children and families. I also host a service project group where my daughter and her friends get together weekly to do service projects coordinated by the parents in the group.

What has motivated you to do this work?

It is important for me to be engaged in service on a regular basis, to give back to the community at large above and beyond the practice of medicine. Working with children and their families to build community gives me the opportunity to contribute to their spiritual healing, not just physical healing. Children have so much love and trust in them and it’s important to nurture that so that they can be agents of change in their own families and communities.

What are the greatest challenges in doing community work? What is most rewarding?

One of the biggest challenges is dealing with the impact that racism and poverty has had on communities. When we try to engage parents and families, for example, their asthma flaring up out of control because of mold and cockroach allergies and the fumes from nearby trash incineration may mean that they cannot participate in activities. Or they may be working 2-3 jobs to support their family, and so may be in bed asleep, coming off from night shift when we knock on their door wanting to have a conversation about how their child did in children’s class that day.

The most rewarding part is definitely building relationships with the children and their families, seeing the children every week and getting a big hug and smile every time. Despite all the challenges, becoming involved in the lives of these children hopefully makes them feel valued and loved, and helps them to fulfill their potential.

Left: Koay with Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of NAACP. He was the keynote speaker at the MLK award ceremony where Koay was recognized for her work in the community.
Koay and Shaw, continued

How do you think the Duke Med-Peds Residency Program helped you to prepare for your career?
Having done residency at Duke has definitely opened doors for me no matter where I’ve tried to move. Employers and colleagues know that I am well trained and will be an asset to them.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy reading, spending time with the kids e.g. taking walks and biking, making puzzles, and I recently picked up knitting.

Any words of wisdom for current trainees?
Residency is hard and demanding, but it’s important to maintain a bit of balance so that you can still learn without losing your empathy for patients and passion for learning.

Andi Shaw (‘13) is an Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY and focuses her efforts on refugee health.

What are you doing now?
I am currently a "big P, little m" but transitioning to a more event split of Med-Peds by fall of this year. I direct our pediatric refugee & immigrant health program for 9 months of the year and spend 3 months dedicated to global health work in Kisumu, Kenya. Our current balance of careers for my husband and myself allows all of us to live and work in two parts of this globe that we call home-- Upstate NY and East Africa. It is a bit of a juggling act at times, but well worth it. In Refugee Clinic, I complete intake examinations for newly resettled families within 30 days of their arrival to Syracuse. I follow them closely for primary care over the initial 5 years of resettlement in a model that ultimately collaborates with resident clinic as family’s health literacy improves with time. I work closely with the community via case managers, social workers and counselors to support refugee health in post-resettlement years. I also lead an inter-professional education initiative that links to these community engaged efforts, allows students to interact with families, community partners, and inter-professional colleagues to advocate for the needs of refugees. This has been quite rewarding for families and learners. In Kenya, I work with our Institute for Global Health and Translational Sciences, where we have created a platform in clinical service, education and research, linking our medical university with Maseno University School of Medicine in Kisumu, Kenya. I lead pediatric residents there for

Above: Koay with her family.

Shaw with her family, including her newest addition, Alek.
Graduate and Faculty Updates

Wayne Franklin (2001) was named Co-Director of the Phoenix Children’s Heart Center, Director of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease program and Chair of Adult Medicine at Phoenix Children’s.

Jordan Awerbach (2014) will join Wayne Franklin at Phoenix Children’s Heart Center as a faculty member.

Anita Ying (2003) was named Vice President, Ambulatory Medical Practice, at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX and is an Associate Professor of Medicine in Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders.

Carrie Herzke (2008) was named as a 2018 Top Hospitalist in ACP-Hospitalist. She was also promoted to Associate Chief Medical Officer of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Aimee Chung (2009) was named Course Director for Capstone for Duke School of Medicine.

Scott Tolan (2014) will be starting Adult Cardiology fellowship at University of Texas San Antonio in July.

Lisa Young (2001) is now the Chief of Pulmonary Medicine at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Jamie Fox (2003) was promoted to full Professor of Pediatrics at Duke School of Medicine.

Olivia Granillo Johnson (2012) was named Chair of the Department of Medicine at Maury Regional Medical Center.

Sima Pendharkar (2012) was recently featured in the Hospitalist (pages 16-17). Read more here. (Carrie Herzke is also featured on pages 1 and 4!).

Alyssa Stephany (2008) and Colby Feeney (2015) were team members with Laura Page (former Duke Pediatric Chief Resident) who was a recipient of the David C. Leach award by the ACGME in 2019 for their work in the Pediatric Residency Safety Council.

Anna (2014) and Steve Dolgner (2013) welcomed their third boy, Daniel Benjamin, to their family.

Andi Shaw (2013) and her husband, Jok, welcomed a girl, Alek, into their family (see picture on opposite page).

Current residents and alumni reunite in Eldoret, Kenya.

From left: Courtney Lambertson (MP4), Matthew Turissini (’17) with his daughters, Erin McGuire (MP4), and Tim Mercer (’15).

Alumni meet at the APPD and MPPDA Meetings in March. From left: Jamie Fox (’03), Jane Trinh (’06), Sue Woods (’98), Colby Feeney (’15), Krishelle Marc Aurele (’07), and Priya Gopwani (’11).
Koay and Shaw, continued

global health rotations, organize bidirectional exchanges for Kenyan students, and coordinate collaborative research projects involving medical and public health students.

How did you get to where you are now?

After completing training at Duke, I worked at UCLA for 2.5 years in a faculty practice group made up of myself, another med-peds provider and a family practitioner. It was a great opportunity to work with terrific colleagues in a small practice within a larger practice group. Our care ranged from newborn to geriatrics with a lot of opportunity for procedures in the office, it was a great start. Southern California was a beautiful place to live, but was not home to myself or my husband, and we wanted our children to grow up around family. My next stop was an internist position that allowed me to work with refugees in Syracuse NY for 1/2 the year, alternating with time working at Juba teaching hospital in South Sudan as a pediatrician. This arrangement lasted for just over a year before the instability in South Sudan was too much for our young family. This is when I shifted to my current position at SUNY Upstate, allowing me to combine my work in refugee care and global health.

What community or advocacy work are you doing?

The refugee medicine work is a natural fit for advocacy. Refugees have a good deal of support over the initial months after arrival, but truly need support in the years after resettlement. Working closely with the community allows me to advocate for supportive measures that greatly affect these families. I organize two educational initiatives: one interprofessional community health class that engages students in advocacy for high-needs refugee families, the second involves health professional students teaching weekly health literacy topics to refugees as part of their ENL (English-New-Language) classes. Both opportunities for advocacy support new families in the challenges they face post resettlement.

What has motivated you to do this work?

I grew up in this community, I enjoy the diversity and richness that the refugee community brings to this region. People do not have control over where they are born, and nearly 1% of the global population is fleeing an unsafe home where they face some form of persecution. Globally, nationally, locally, we must do our part to support these most vulnerable families. I am fortunate to be able to dedicate my energies to supporting their health needs.

What are the greatest challenges in doing community work? What is most rewarding?

Community work is challenging as there are always limited funds to make projects work, that being said there is plenty of good will around to step in when funds are not available or obtainable. Bringing professionals together from all different angles to support refugee health is very rewarding.

How do you think the Duke Med-Peds Residency Program helped you to prepare for your career? A strong foundation with a great breath of exposure across four years of training was invaluable and left me with a confidence in my abilities that I do not know if I would have had otherwise. While MedPeds training is intentionally inpatient heavy, our dedicated time in continuity clinic with a strong emphasis on ownership of our patients made for an easy transition to ambulatory positions.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Spend time with little ones and family! With a 2 month old and a nearly 2 and nearly 4 year old at home, we are busy reading, playing, exploring outside, a trip to the zoo if we are in Syracuse, or a trip to a safari park if we are in Kenya!

Any words of wisdom for current trainees?

Residency is an intense time in your life and your career, it’s ok to make it a selfish time to focus on YOU and your career. The extra hours, extra reading, and going the extra mile for a patient will be the rocks that form your foundation for the rest of your life and career.
Meet the Class of 2023!

Sarah Dillon, MD
BS: College of William & Mary
MD: University of Virginia
Hometown: Richmond, VA

Andrew Morgan, MD, PhD
BS: University of North Carolina
PhD: University of North Carolina
MD: University of North Carolina
Hometown: Durham, NC

Connor Moseley, MD
BS: Yale University
MD: Duke University
Hometown: Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Sriya Muralidharan, MD
BA: Brown University
MD: Brown University
Hometown: Carmel, IN

Benjamin Redpath, MD, MPH
BS: Emory University
MPH: Emory University
MD: Emory University
Hometown: Lake Barrington, IL

Emily Zalimeni, MD, MPH
BS: University of North Carolina
MPH: University of North Carolina
MD: University of North Carolina
Hometown: Elon, NC

The Duke Med-Peds Residency Fund

This fund supports our current Med-Peds residents in a variety of educational experiences, including participation in research projects, attendance at national meetings, preparation and presentation of scholarly work, global health opportunities and involvement in community outreach programs.

Please consider making a contribution online at SupportMedTraining.duke.edu and clicking Combined Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program from the list, or send a check to Duke Health Development Office, Attn. Duke Med-Peds Residency Fund, 710 W. Main Street, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27701.
Trainee News

Incoming intern, Andrew Morgan and his wife, Katie Jordan, welcomed daughter, Louisa in May 2019.

Austin Wesevich (MP2) and Govind Krishnan (MP3) received Resident Research Grants through the Department of Medicine for 2019-2020.

Posters


Publication


Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

Sarah Cohen
Combined Pulmonary and Adult Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at The Ohio State University

David Fuller
Adult Infectious Diseases Fellowship at University of California Los Angeles

Courtney Lamberton
Med-Peds Hospitalist at University of Pennsylvania and CHOP in Philadelphia, PA

Erin McGuire
Adult Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at New York University

Ashley Naughton
Med-Peds Hospitalist at Renown Medical Center in Reno, NV

Rebecca Ruf
Adult Nephrology Fellowship at Duke University