

# Duke Medicine-Pediatrics

## Fall 2021 Newsletter



### Alumni Update: Jennifer Taylor-Cousar



**“Some life-changing opportunities only come up once. If you don’t take them, you’ll never get to do them.”**

Dr. Taylor-Cousar shares her career journey and surprises along the way.

**What year did you finish residency?**

I was in Durham for 12 years all together. I did medical school at Duke and then Med-Peds residency from 1998-2002. After residency, I completed combined adult and pediatric pulmonary fellowship from 2002-2006 at Duke also. I did my clinical fellowship training at Duke and fellowship research project in cystic fibrosis (CF) at UNC.

**What are you doing professionally now?**

I am still adult and peds pulmonary, but the majority of my time is spent doing adult CF clinical research and CF care. I have CF clinic one day a week and general

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### GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello! We are about halfway through our 2nd year of virtual interviews for residency, and while the vibe is different than being in person, it’s still amazing to meet the fantastic students across the the country. The big news for us is that our clinic (as well as the peds group) moved! We are about 2 blocks away from the Roxboro Rd site, on N Duke Street, after 26 years. It will take some time to adjust to the new space, and the memories of Rox will remain with us forever.

I hope you and your families are doing well. We continue to look forward to days of less COVID. Let us know how you are doing; we would love to hear from you. -Jane



peds pulmonary clinic one day a month. With about 70% of my time I do clinical research in CF and with the remaining 20%, I perform clinical research administration at the CF Therapeutics Development Center Director and Medical Director of Clinical Research Services for the institution.

### **What has motivated you to do this work?**

When I was 9 years-old, I decided that I wanted to become a pediatrician. Then for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade project, I rotated with my mom's friend who was a NICU nurse, so I went into med school thinking that I would do neonatology. However, after doing my medicine rotation in medical school, I decided to do Med-Peds. As Med-Peds residents, we could do subspecialty clinic our third and fourth years. During my third year, I did subspecialty clinic with Dr. Claude Piantadosi who cared for people with pulmonary alveolar proteinosis and with sarcoidosis. During fourth year, I did clinic with Dr. Marc Majure in peds pulmonary and saw children with asthma and with CF. CF really interested me because of the pulmonary and infectious disease aspects. I learned to love ID being at Duke, which I'm sure influenced that interest.

Also around that time, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation established the CF Therapeutics Development Network (TDN) (1998) in an effort to develop CF specific therapies. During my residency at Duke, I spent three months doing clinical rotations in medicine and pediatrics in Tanzania at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. Over that 3 months we also did a point prevalence study of HIV, which really sparked my clinical research interest.



### **What continues to motivate you to do this work?**

I love seeing my patients and following them through their whole lives. I have patients who I've cared for more than 12 years here in Denver. I love that continuity, but the thing about clinical research is you are impacting more than just the person in clinic. You are impacting potentially thousands of people.

### **Has your work changed in the last 2 years due to COVID? If so, in what ways?**

Work has changed but not as much as it may have for some people. At the peak of the pandemic, I was on the back up list for ICU call and did

pediatrics acute COVID clinic during the shutdown. The biggest change for me was related to my role as the clinical research services medical director for the entire institution. We closed down all non-essential studies at the peak of the pandemic, so we had to develop policies to create a staged research restart with precautions in place to protect participants and research study staff.

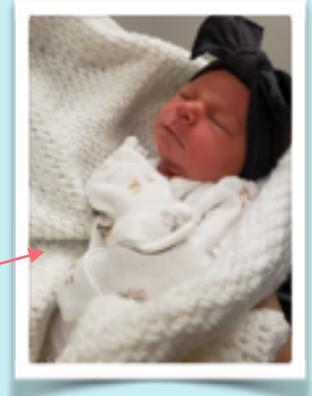
### **What do you want to do next?**

The really fun thing about where we are in CF care is that the median estimated survival is now 50 years. People with CF are living a lot longer, and so we are rethinking how we are going to take care of them. The new drug, Trikafta, introduced in 2019, makes women with CF more fertile [there are CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) channels in the cervix as well and when they work better, it makes it easier to get pregnant]. This improvement has led to doubling of pregnancies between 2019 and 2020. We have started a 40-site study to prospectively examine the outcomes of these mothers and babies, regardless of whether they stay on the drug.

There is also a group of people with CF who don't qualify for CFTR protein modulators because their mutations preclude the making of protein. For this group of people with CF we are starting an early phase study of the use of inhaled mRNA therapy starting in 2022 using adenovirus as a vector. I am the national PI for that study.

## GRADUATE AND FACULTY UPDATES

- Recent graduate, Matt McCulloch (2020), tied the knot with husband, Alex Allen, in November.
- Katie Wood (2020) celebrated her marriage to husband, Mike Andrews, in November.
- Kelly Han (2015) and RJ Andrews welcomed son, Atlas Henry Andrews, in June.
- Kully Woodruff (2017) and Alex welcomed daughter, Lucía Lynn Hinojosa, in June.
- Katie Wood (2020), current pediatric cardiology fellow at Duke, is leading the program Strong Hearts. It is a comprehensive exercise program for kids with heart disease to provide them with a supportive community to exercise safely and improve their health and quality of life. It was selected for participation in the Duke Children's Seasons of Hope crowd-funding campaign. Learn more and donate [here](#).
- David Ming (2010) collaborated with current resident Sam Dizon (MP4) and others to study the implementation of social needs assessment in children with medical complexity.
- Med-Peds faculty member, Dan Ostrovsky, published his work on interprofessional telehealth visits.
- Matt McCulloch (2020) and Govind Krishnan (2020) started a QI project during residency to improve Hepatitis B vaccination in newborns. Their article was published in BMJ Open Quality in October.
- Austin Wesevich (2021) led his Patient Daily Care Plan (PDCP) team to publish his research done during his training at Duke on using text messages to assist with patient communication. Coming soon in JGIM!
- Erica Peterson (2004) was honored with a 2021 Medicaid Provider Award by the governor of Nebraska for her outstanding care of patients and work on breastfeeding education, Reach Out and Read, behavioral health screening tools, and commitment to her community.
- Joel Boggan (2013) was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke School of Medicine.
- Richard Chung (2009) was promoted to Full Professor of Pediatrics, Duke School of Medicine.
- Claudia Leung (2021) is a pulmonary nocturnist at Duke, yet continues her global health work. Check out her most recent study.



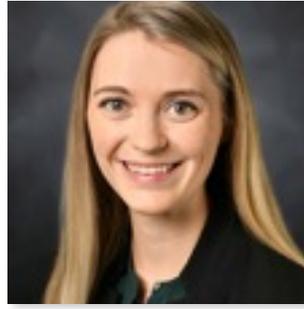
Class of 2021 celebrates with one of their guests of honor, Alejandra Dunn, at their SAR dinner. Alejandra is a Spanish interpreter at the MP clinic and made them all t-shirts that say, "Interpreter needed in Med-Peds, please. Gracias."

# Meet the Class of 2025!



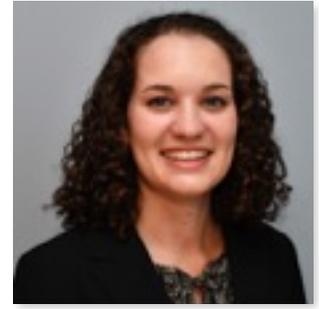
**Samantha Collins**

Sam is from Sharon, MA. She attended Middlebury in VT for UG. She then conducted stem cell and bone marrow transplant research at Boston Children's before coming to Duke for medical school. Sam took an extra year during med school to do stem cell research on Type 1 diabetes mellitus. She has committed innumerable hours to T1DM research, advocacy, and others with the disease. Throughout her life she has raised more than \$50K for T1DM research. She enjoys running at the Eno in her free time.



**Amber Fleck**

Amber hails from Denver, CO. She started studying Marine Biology at U of Hawaii before changing her path towards medicine and transferring to NC State. She attended University of Colorado for medical school where she was active in student government. She served as executive vice president of the entire student body. Amber was a member of the Global Health Track and researched a volunteer-driven primary care system in Kisumu, Kenya. Amber rock climbs, surfs, scuba dives, knits and reads in her free time.



**Julia Hiserodt**

Julia is from Huntington Beach, CA and attended UCLA for UG. She made her way to Harvard for med school where she did both clinical (researching carbohydrate metabolism in patients with HIV) and medical education research. Julia was very active in pandemic outreach and in education, acting to evaluate and improve curriculum in the med school. You can find Julia doing seasonal activities outdoors, including hiking and biking.



**Karen Lin**

From Lexington, MA, Karen attended Cornell for UG and Duke for medical school where she did extensive pediatric research in everything from parental health literacy, health care disparities, and childhood obesity. During medical school, Karen partnered with Root Causes in Durham to co-found Sprout Kits, providing home gardening kits and contactless grocery deliveries to Duke patients during the pandemic. Karen has a love for pottery, triathlons, and backpacking.



**Aashu Patel**

Aashu is from Streamwood, IL and went to U of Illinois Chicago for both his UG and medical school degrees. Aashu was active during medical school in student government and advocacy. He volunteered at the Free Health Clinic seeing patients, doing telehealth med refills and working in the affiliated food pantry. He served as the philanthropy chair for the Chicago Cancer Society and coordinated the South Asian Medical Student Association community health fairs in Chicago. Aashu has a passion for cooking, basketball and football.



**Courtney Richman**

Courtney is from Waterloo, IA, attending Washington University for UG before making her way east to Duke for medical school. She has been researching the pancreas since UG, and in true Med-Peds fashion, did both adult and peds GI research during med school. Courtney served as president of the Davison Council at and spearheaded the Telehealth Interest Group, as well as volunteered with the DukeMed COVID-19 Response. She enjoys baking, reading, yoga, and tennis.

## RESIDENT UPDATES

- Congrats to Sriya Muralidharan & Sukrit Jain (2nd year, IM resident) on their wedding.
- Christopher Zheng has been selected to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Committee and Sarah Dillon has been selected to serve on the Infection Control Committee.
- Ashley Thrower was selected to serve as the new Vice President of the Minority Housestaff Association.
- Grace Lee will be serving as a 2022-2023 Pediatrics Chief Resident.
- Sriya Muralidharan was selected to be the co-chair of the GME Residency Council for 2021-2022.
- Bari Rosenberg, Sam Curtis, Christopher Zheng will be serving on the Pediatric Residency Council.



- Vivian Chen-Andrews and Bari Rosenberg are serving on the Internal Medicine ResCo Committee this year.
- Sam Dizon was selected for participation in the Medical Education Leadership Track.
- The residency program participated in its third annual advocacy run with ECU and UNC Med-Peds to **raise \$1800 for El Futuro**, an outpatient non-profit clinic providing mental health services to Latino patients and families. THANK YOU to all who donated to the cause!

### 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, presentation of scholarly work, and more.

Please consider making a contribution online at [SupportMedTraining.duke.edu](https://SupportMedTraining.duke.edu) and clicking the Combined Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program form the list or send a check to Duke Alumni & Development Records, Attn. Duke Med-Peds Residency Fund, Box 90581, Durham, NC 27708.

### 2020-2021 End of Year Awards

- Sam Curtis received a Pediatric Appleseed Teaching Award.
- Maxine Chan, and Vivian Chen-Andrews received Robert Drucker Medical Student Teaching Awards.
- Henry Foote received the Karen Frush Pediatric Emergency Medicine Award.
- Aimee Chung received the Sam Katz Faculty Award.
- Andrew Morgan received the William Bell Award.
- Claudia Leung received the Pediatrics SAR Talk Award.
- Sam Curtis received the 2020-21 Clinical Skills Foundation (CSF) course Professionalism Award.
- Austin Wesevich was awarded the 2021 Ralph Synderman, MD Award which recognizes excellence in research in the GME community.

### What was your favorite part of training at Duke?

The part that I loved the most was seamlessly moving back and forth between medicine and pediatrics, not only because of the way that rotations were set up but also just caring for people across the lifetime was amazing. I had so many people tell me not to do med-peds, and they thought med-peds pulmonary was an even worse idea. However, I really use both skillsets in caring for patients. I care for the patients with CF and autism or intellectual disability, because the adult CF providers aren't comfortable caring for them.

That versatility has also made it easy for me to work with orangutans. Back in 2011, our hospital CEO connected me with the Denver Zoo. They were trying to manage an orangutan with respiratory infections caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* which they thought was due to fecal contamination of the environment. But I didn't think that was the case, so I started to investigate further with them their air sacs (the large sac in front of their chest). We did CTs and genetic work on them. It turns out that they had bronchiectasis and sinusitis. It is mostly non-CF bronchiectasis, although one orangutan is a carrier with a nonsense mutation. So I have this whole other project researching orangutan lung disease, what the cause is, and how to treat it. Essentially it was like pediatrics, giving them treats for doing their nebulizer treatments. We have published in the American Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine and The Journal of Primatology and I've traveled to Indonesia five times to present the work and do consults on orangutans in rescue centers with respiratory disease.



### Do you have a favorite memory from residency?

In the pre-work hour restriction days, doing a combined residency was intense, and there was little down time. We used to have these roasts or skits where we teased the class behind us (all in good fun!) in place of grand rounds that day. One of my favorite memories was having the class above us impersonate us running a code and knowing exactly who they were mimicking. We laughed a lot that morning and for days afterwards.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

My three favorite things are diving (in warm water), cheering on the Denver Broncos (I have had season tickets since I moved back), and showing and breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

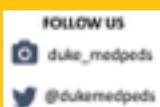
### What words of wisdom do you have for current trainees?

I am generally not a spontaneous person and like to plan out my short and long term course, but when the unusual and/or exciting opportunity arises, you have to be flexible enough to take the risks in order to reap the many potential benefits. For example, before attending Duke, training in Med-Peds had never even occurred to me, but I changed course from straight pediatrics and strongly believe that choice opened many other doors and made me a better clinician and clinical investigator. Some life-changing opportunities only come up once. If you don't take them, you'll never get to do them. Once you take that chance, put all your energy into it. Being present in whatever you do is critical to career success. Take opportunities for the adventures and be present when you pursue them. ◆



## Recent Trainee Presentations and Publications

- **Bari Rosenberg** will present her work, Acute Myeloid Leukemia in Western Kenya: a snapshot, at the annual American Society of Hematology (ASH) meeting in December.
- **Blee, S, Rosenberg, B, Switchenko, JM, Hianik, R, Thomson, MC, Dixon, M, et al.** Understanding immunotherapy terminology: An analysis of provider-patient conversations. *ImmunoMedicine*. 2021;e1028. <https://doi.org/10.1002/imed.1028>
- **Sriya Muralidharan** received funding from the North Carolina Society of Gastroenterology for her research on advanced endoscopy. She presented her research with her mentor, Darin Dufault, at Medicine Grand Rounds.
- **Curtis S, Younge N, Peterson J, Cotten CM, Aleem S, Greenberg RG,** Which infants should receive indomethacin prophylaxis: Moving closer to individualized medicine in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, *The Journal of Pediatrics* (2021), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.07.006>.
- **Curtis S, Cotten CM, Laughon M, Clark RH, Greenberg RH.** Indomethacin prophylaxis in preterm infants: Changes over time. National AAP Conference. October 9, 2021.
- **Sriya Muralidharan** and Colby Feeney. Ariginase Deficiency in an Immigrant Patient without Medical Care. National AAP Conference- Section on Medicine-Pediatrics. October 9, 2021.
- **Karen Lin** presented her research with mentor, Dr. Michelle White, at the 2021 Pediatric Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting.
- **Erin Frost** and Daniel Landi. A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing: an atypical etiology of a cerebellar mass. 2021 Pediatric Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting.
- **Samantha Curtis.** "Want to play?" Duke Voices. Fall publication 2021.
- **Ming DY, Jones KA, Sainz E, Tkach H, Stewart A, Cram A, Morreale M, Dizon S, deJong N.** Feasibility of implementing systematic social needs assessment for children with medical complexity. *Implement Sci Commun* 2, 130 (2021).
- **Sam Dizon** was awarded a Faculty Resident Research Grant with mentor, Dr. Richard Krasuski to study "Right Ventricular Dilation as a Predictor of Admission for Heart Failure in Patients with Corrected Tetralogy of Fallot."
- 2021 NC Pediatric Society posters:
  - **Curtis, S;** Cotten, CM; Laughon, M,; Clarke, R,; Greenberg, RG; Indomethacin prophylaxis in preterm infants: Changes over time. (Third place in poster competition)
  - **Erin Frost** and Daniel Landi. A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing: an atypical etiology of a cerebellar mass.
  - **Kevin Prier,** Daniel Critchfield, George Cortina, and Betty Staples. Prolonged anaphylaxis to Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.



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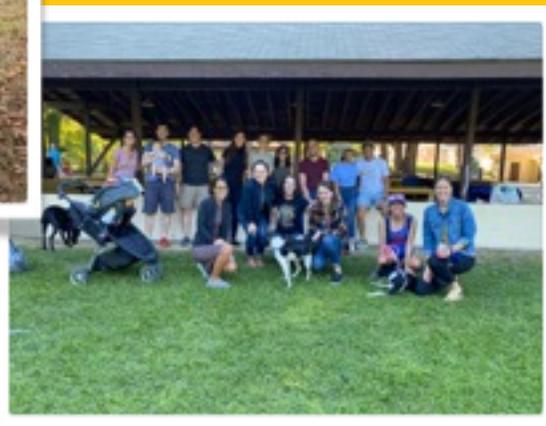
**Duke Med-Peds  
Residency Program**

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LEFT: Our interns at the peds/med-peds annual intern retreat.



RIGHT: Program gathering this fall at Forest Hills Park.