

Duke Medicine-Pediatrics

Spring 2021 Newsletter



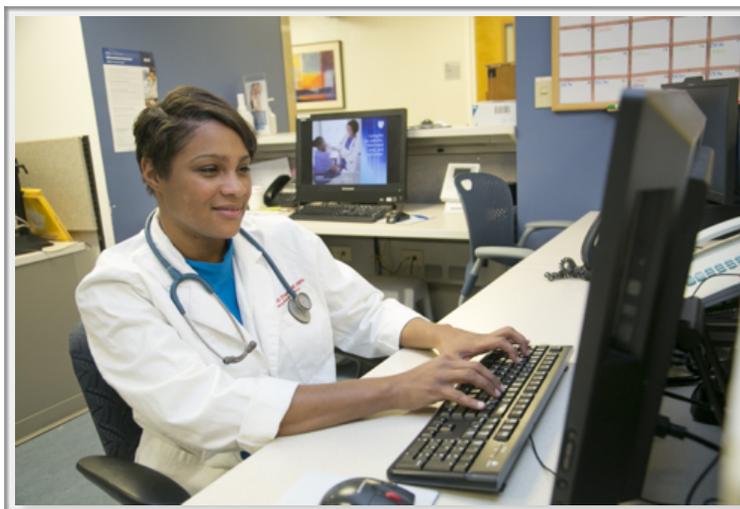
Leading research and her community

Alumni Update: Kanecia Zimmerman, MD, MPH

We had a chance to catch up with Dr. Kanecia Zimmerman (2011), who reflects on her career's evolution, the effect of COVID-19 on her future path, and her commitment to her community.

What are you doing professionally now?

I am an Associate Professor of Pediatrics. I am a pediatric intensivist and faculty at the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI). At the DCRI, I have a number of research programs that are ongoing. I lead the Pediatric Trials Network in collaboration with Dr. Danny Benjamin. The



network is NIH-sponsored to study off-patent drugs for children and update pediatric labels. We conduct clinical trials across the country to provide additional information about safety, pharmacokinetics, and efficacy about drugs. I do some critical care studies about sedatives and analgesics and how we can do that better in the pediatric ICU. I'm also in the process of completing a PhD in pharmacoepidemiology and am finishing my dissertation. More recently, I have been involved in community engagement with regards to local schools.

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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello! I love this time of year. We know who is joining our program, the current interns are starting to see a light at the end of the year, we are getting ready to see our 4th year med-peds residents off to the next steps in their careers, and the weather in NC is amazing. As with many of you, it's a whirlwind to reflect back on the last 14 months – we knew so little about how to identify and treat COVID and now we have a vaccine for it that has been approved down to the age of 12. We pivoted in so many ways in our day to day lives from patient care, learning and recruitment – learning new virtual platforms. The pandemic of racism remains a struggle, and I am proud of the community that the med-peds residents and faculty have built around sharing and learning from one another. I hope that you have been able to re-connect with loved ones you have not seen in a while. Take care and send us your news! Jane Trinh



What has motivated you to do this work?

A number of things. One, being a pediatric intensivist is one thing but there are only 16 beds and I can only affect 16 kids at one time. And to those parents and that family, it's amazing. But, I always came into medicine with a preventative health mindset. I thought I was going to be a primary care doctor, and then I became a pediatric intensivist. I am always trying to think about how to change things on a broader scale, and not just patching up and fixing things. That was the primary motivation to pursue some of the opportunities. Some opportunities have fallen in my lap, or I have taken them on not really wanting to but understanding that there actually can be broad impact my negotiating labels with the FDA and doing clinical trials to provide mass knowledge for others.

Has your work changed in the last year? If so, in what ways?

It's done a 180! I think most people have done a 180 with COVID. Our research group and our research program were trucking along and then thinking about COVID, we started to ask ourselves how can we be helpful. And it became obvious that the issue for kids wasn't probably going to be COVID itself. We stood up our research program to learn about prevention of COVID and meds for COVID, but it didn't seem like it was going to be enough for what kids actually needed. When schools closed in March, it became painfully obvious that that was going to be the issue. I was partly motivated from seeing my own kids March through June being out of school. I was concerned for all kids and in particular Black and Latino children being out of public school and the potential effect that might have on them. In the summer, some local pediatricians and school board members approached Dr. Benjamin about needing advice on opening schools. He then asked me if I would want to put together a program that will provide relevant, scientific information to schools to help them to make decisions. We started locally mostly by providing science and information in small sessions and then expanded across the state to reach 52 districts across the state. We would discuss the latest data and how it pertains to children and adults, etc. We then grew our team, adding colleagues from Infectious Diseases, Primary care, and from UNC to be able to respond to all of these school districts. It is called the [ABC Science Collaborative](#).

As researchers, we wanted to help generate knowledge by collecting data from districts about primary and secondary infections, preventative methods, etc. and published it ([link!](#) published in January). It was pretty groundbreaking, because no one else was doing this!

We had almost 100,000 people in the study, and it told us kids can actually go to school. It was published in January and we were working with the CDC, sharing our data and other leaders that we have data to support the fact that schools should maybe be the first activity to go back to in person and that in person school could be safe.

What do you want to do next?

I think it will be related to the ABC Science Collaborative. We presented to NC General Assembly and to NIH. We actually got laws changed because of our work, and all kids now have to be offered to go back to school. I think the question will be about next year. One there's a lot of learning loss. It also seems that kids may be going back to school disproportionately based on race. More Black and brown children are more staying home. We actually just received an NIH grant to do qualitative evaluation on this subject. Are there methods of testing or other things that could make people feel comfortable going back to school? Also, we have spread our data across the country, so we are partnering with other states to continue to do research and work related to schools, COVID, educational loss, mental health, etc. You can't ignore inequities that we know exist. My hope is to directly ask people what they are doing and why, and not just base reasons for inequities on assumption. And I'm also completing my PhD. :) And I will stay in the clinical space as well. I love being an intensivist.



Dr. Zimmerman and her family.

What was your favorite part of training at Duke?

I've been at Duke for all of my training, so it's hard to separate one from another. My residency class had 5 women and it was awesome- lots of girl power! It was

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GRADUATE AND FACULTY UPDATES

- Carolyn Avery (2013) is leading several value-based care initiatives as the site director at the Pediatrics and General Internal Medicine clinic on Roxboro street, including projects in preventative care for patients with diabetes, screening colonoscopy and mammograms, and screening for social drivers of health for all pediatric patients.
- Aimee Chung (2009) was awarded a 2021 Golden Apple Award from the Duke School of Medicine, the highest teaching award presented by the SOM student body to recognize excellence in medical student education.
- Congrats to Aimee Chung and Dean Miner (faculty) on their promotions to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.
- Amadea Britton (2020) is researching vaccine effectiveness through her role with the CDC. See publication [here](#).
- Dana Clifton (2016) will be leading an Opioid Use Disorder seminar with Southern Regional AHEC. She recently published on her work in OUD during the pandemic.
- Logan Eberly (2018) is completing his Adult Cardiology fellowship at Emory this year and will be headed to Brigham & Women's/Boston Children's Hospital next year for Adult Congenital Heart Disease fellowship.
- Ashley Hanlon (2018) is completing her Adult Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Duke this year and will be headed to northern Virginia as a Medical Hematologist/Oncologist at the Inova cancer centers.
- Laura Miller (2018) is completing her Neonatology fellowship at Duke this year and will be returning to home state of Wisconsin to work as a neonatologist.
- Aimee Chung (2009) teamed up with other pediatricians in early February to give COVID-19 vaccines in Raleigh communities hard-hit by the pandemic.
- David Ming (2010) and his team won the Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Grand Challenge competition for Care Coordination for Children with Special Health Care Needs, beating out 60 teams across the country.
- Matthew Turissini (2017) and collaborator Dr. Edith Kwobah were recipients of a large grant to fund mental health access in Kenya. Turissini and Tim Mercer (2015) also co-first authored this article on global health education!
- Ashley Naughton (2019) and family welcomed son, Lucas Michael, on 12/4/2020.
- Joel Boggan (2013) and wife, Lin Ong, welcomed son, Khai, on 3/27/21.



so interesting to see what people want to be when they start residency and how they change. Being able to support each other and lean on one another through that. It's also really great to see people close to us in training do bigger and better things, like Tom Owens and Jon Bae.

What is your favorite memory from residency?

I think just hanging out with all of my colleagues and kids (Justice now 14 years, Jordan now 10 years-old). It was nice to have a little reprieve, because everyone would want to hold my baby.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I don't have much free time, but my husband is still coaching basketball. We watch a lot of basketball and my kids are now playing competitively. So any waking moment that I'm not working, we are at a gym playing or watching basketball.

What words of wisdom do you have for current trainees?

Keep an open mind. You never really know where things will go, but you have to allow them to go there. Certainly at the beginning of training, I would have never seen myself here. Dream big and keep an open mind. ●

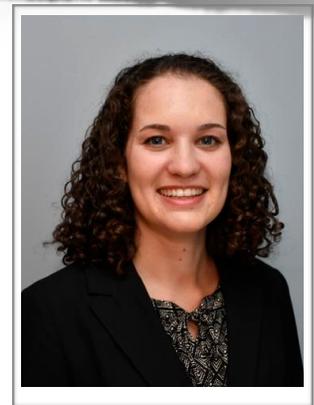
Welcome the class of 2025!



Samantha Collins
UG: Middlebury College
MS: Duke
Hometown: Sharon, MA



Amber Fleck
UG: NC State University
MS: University of Colorado
Hometown: Lakewood, CO



Julia Hiserodt
UG: UCLA
MS: Harvard
Hometown: Huntington Beach, CA



Karen Lin
UG: Cornell University
MS: Duke
Hometown: Lexington, MA



Aashutos Patel
UG: University of Illinois- Chicago
MS: University of Illinois- Chicago
Hometown: Streamwood, IL



Courtney Richman
UG: Washington University
MS: Duke
Hometown: Waterloo, IA

RESIDENT UPDATES

- Grace Lee presented to the Pediatric Academic Society (PAS) North Carolina Early Literacy Special Interest Group about pediatricians and families partnering to use children's books to talk about race and racism.
- Austin Wesevich was a Califf Resident Research Award winner and was chosen as 1 of 3 residents to present his research at Medicine Grand Rounds.
- Sam Dizon and Grace Lee created a QI project to teach peer debriefing to fellow residents. Over the past few months, they have rolled out the curriculum to pediatrics, medicine, and med-peds residents!
- Sriya Muralidharan was accepted as an associate in the Duke Design and Health program.
- Congrats to several of our residents who had their families grow over the last few months.
 - Henry Foote and Rosa Li welcomed Emerson on December 20, 2020.
 - Austin Wesevich and Megan Lynch welcomed Isabel Allegra Wesevich on December 24, 2020.
 - Ruchi and Subhash Doshi, and big brother Shiv, welcomed Yash on January 5, 2021.
 - Kevin and Lana Prier, and big sisters Bella and Violet, welcomed Mary Grace on January 11, 2021.

Right: We made Korean bibimbap during our first ever Med-Peds virtual cooking class!



Left: Intern class celebrates a day off together!

Duke Med-Peds Residency Fund

The Duke Med-Peds Residency 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 and clicking the Combined Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program form the list or send a check to Duke Health Development Office, Attn. Duke Med-Peds Residency Fund, 710 W. Main St, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27701.

Recent Trainee Posters and Publications

- Duke Department of Pediatrics Research Retreat (April 2021):
 - **Samantha Curtis, MD**, C. Michael Cotten, MD, Matt Laughon, MD, Reese H. Clarke, MD, Rachel Greenberg, MD Indomethacin prophylaxis in preterm infants: Changes over time.
 - **Austin Wesevich**, Megan G. Jiao, Taruni S. Santanam, Richard J. Chung, Julie Uchitel, Qintian Zhang, Claire D. Brindis, Carol A. Ford, Nathaniel Z. Counts, & Charlene A. Wong Adolescent and Young Adult Perspectives on Quality and Value in Healthcare.
 - **Austin Wesevich**, George Mocha, Frank Kiwara, Colin Chao, Idd Shabani, John Z. Igenge, & Kristin Schroeder Wilms tumor treatment protocol compliance and the influence on outcomes for children in Northern Tanzania.
 - **Austin Wesevich**, Mikelle Key-Solle, Apoorva Kandakatla, Colby Feeney, Kathryn Pollak, & Thomas W. LeBlanc Utilization of Text Messages to Supplement Rounding Communication: A Pilot Feasibility Study.
 - AZ Blatt, **GS Lee**, KM Nazareth-Pidgeon, and CD Feeney Decreasing variability in the management of Kawasaki disease in patients admitted to the general pediatrics service at Duke University Hospital: a quality improvement project.
- Tobin R, **Dizon S**, Boswell E, Caputo L. Rheumatoid Vasculitis: A Rare But Deadly Zebra. North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Physicians (Feb 2021) and Society for General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting (April 2021).
- Ming D, Jones K, Sainz E, Tkach H, Stewart A, Cram A, Madlyn M, **Dizon S**, deJong N. Implementation of Systematic Social Needs Assessment for Children with Medical Complexity. Academy Health Dissemination and Implementation Annual Conference. October 2020.
- Jennifer Rothman and **Ashley Thrower**. COVID-19 and sickle cell disease (SCD): Multi-system Inflammatory syndrome in children with SCD. The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology National Conference. April 20–23, 2021.
- **Muralidharan, S.** and Feeney, C. Arginase Deficiency in an Immigrant Patient without Medical Care.
- **Thrower, Ashley** and Feeney, Colby. Adult Intussusception: Cancer Until Proven Otherwise. North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Physicians. February 2021.
- **Thrower, Ashley** and Feeney, Colby. Kawasaki Disease: An Atypical Response to the Typical Treatment.” Society of Hospital Medicine National Meeting. May 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING CLASS!

- **Margaret DeOliveira will start Adult Nephrology fellowship at the Mount Sinai Hospital.**
- **Ruchi Doshi will be a combined Med-Peds hospitalist at Duke University Hospital.**
- **Henry Foote will start Pediatric Cardiology fellowship at Duke.**
- **Claudia Leung will be a Pulmonary Nocturnist at Duke University Hospital.**
- **Monty Natour will start Neonatology fellowship at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.**
- **Austin Wesevich will start Adult Hematology/Oncology fellowship at University of Chicago.**

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