Hello from the Program Director!

Greetings from Durham!
I hope you all are enjoying a lovely Spring. Durham is vibrant with flowering trees and outdoor activities. We are elated to welcome an exceptional new intern class in June, coming from multiple areas of the country, as well as three from Duke SOM. As I return from national meetings across the country over the last week, I continue to be impressed and grateful for our national Med-Peds community. Thank you for continuing to be a part of our Duke Med-Peds family. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find a time to connect with other Duke Med-Peds alumni or current residents. – Colby

Alum Highlight: Bimal Patel

What attracted you to Duke Med-Peds and/or Durham?
Originally from the Southeast, I went to UNC for undergrad and always have had a love for the Triangle. When applying to residency programs, I was blown away by the transformation of Durham over the years and the vibrant scene that it had become. I was particularly drawn to Duke Med-Peds for the program leadership of Dr. Woods/Dr. Trinh, the strength of both categorical programs, the consolidated campus, rigorous curriculum, access to world class instructors, friendly staff/colleagues, and having our own dedicated Med-Peds Clinic/faculty. The program really checked all the boxes for me!

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Join the newly formed Association of Med-Peds Physicians (link) for free!

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What did you do after residency and what are you doing now?

During our 4th year, Duke Med-Peds residents have an opportunity to do a two-month Global Health rotation, and I knew I wanted to use that experience to explore alternative careers in underserved areas that would also be sustainable for me without having to move abroad. So, I did my rotation in the Indian Health Service on Navajo Nation in Shiprock, New Mexico, along with my now wife who was an FM resident I met on the Peds Katz service. That experience led us on an adventure we are still on to this day, and we moved to Shiprock after I worked for a year at Duke Regional Hospital.

For the past 5 years, my wife and I have been working at Northern Navajo Medical Center, where I practice full-spectrum IM and Peds. I precept visiting IM, Med-Peds, and Peds residents from all over the country. My outpatient work includes Peds to Adult Care transition, managing my own primary care panels of pediatric & complex adult patients, and helping staff our Same Day open access clinics. I rotate on the Pediatric inpatient service, which includes Gen Peds patients, nursery, as well as neonatal resuscitation following deliveries. I also rotate on our IM inpatient service, which includes hospitalist procedures and up to Level 2 ICU management. I have supplemented my clinical time: teaching ACLS and PALS courses, managing physician scheduling, and with various hospital committees like Hospital Utilization Review and our Child Protection Team collaborating with Tribal Social Services, the FBI, and Navajo PD.

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Alum Highlight Continued…

Looking back to where you are now, what were the most important aspects of your Duke Med-Peds Residency experience that helped prepare you for your career?

To be able to maintain my current scope of practice, I lean on every single clinical experience I ever had at Duke. Having the exposure we get during our residency program, I feel comfortable in managing the breadth and complexity in an area without much subspecialty support. Through our outpatient training in Med-Peds Continuity Clinic and an FQHC like Lincoln, I gained experience working with patients of various socioeconomic backgrounds and caring for patients through language barriers. At my hospital in Shiprock, we round on our own Internal Medicine empaneled patients when they are admitted to the hospital. I appreciate how the Duke Med-Peds faculty made primary care the core of our curriculum, because our residency training made taking care of my clinic patients on the wards almost natural for me.

What do you want to do next?

Honestly, just living in the moment right now, but who knows - we may make it back to the Triangle one day!

What brings you the most joy during your work days and in your free time?

The day-to-day clinical variety working with an indigenous population, ability to practice full-spectrum, and our group’s prioritization of lifestyle flexibility have kept us here. Outside work, we enjoy our time exploring the Southwest and raising our two boys who are currently 2.5 years and 10 months old, as well our rez dog Shadow who somehow turned her 1 week stay with us into 4 years!

Any words of wisdom for current trainees?

You are going to have such amazing colleagues and learning experiences at Duke to prepare you for whatever ultimately you decide to do. So, even as you embrace the challenge of some of those long days and are busy mapping out your future careers, take some time to do one thing for yourself every day. It will make you an even better doctor.
Welcome to the MP Class of 2028!

Courtney Bair
UG: Vanderbilt Univ
MS: Duke Univ
Hometown: Columbus, OH

Bronwen Foreman
UG: Amherst College
MS: Duke Univ
Hometown: Denver, CO

Ibukun Olubowale
UG: Univ of Pennsylvania
MS: Temple Univ
Hometown: Providence, RI

Michael Qureshi
UG: University of Miami
MS: Florida International Univ
Hometown: Miami, FL

Sanjana Ravi
UG: Univ of Texas at Dallas
MS: Univ of Texas at Austin
Hometown: Plano, TX

Kent Sutton
UG: Dartmouth College
MS: Duke Univ
Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC

Meet up with Sriya Muralidharan (2023) at APPD Conference in Chicago!

MP2 Class Dinner! (MP2s - Lily Suarez, Joe Goddu, Mohamed, Mohamed, Shane Clark, Noah Hellerman, Josh Mercer)
Resident Updates

✦ Lily Suarez (pictured right) received the APA Region IV Annual Resident Award for her platform presentation titled “Ideal Food Insecurity Screening and Intervention Protocols in Pediatric Primary Care”. This work was also accepted for a platform presentation at Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Toronto in May. She also published her work in *American Journal of Health Promotion* demonstrating benefit for families after creation of a clinic-based food pantry.

✦ Ashley Thrower was awarded the Malbert Smith, III and Alisa Smith Pediatric Resident and Fellow Scholarship in 2023. She continued to serve as the Duke Minority Housestaff Association President for 2023-2024. Ashley (pictured left) presented her research at the American Society of Hematology Conference as part of the ASH Minority Resident Hematology Award she received.

✦ Sam Collins (pictured right) presented a clinical vignette at NC ACP on a congenital cardiac cause of adult pulmonary HTN. She recently published research from before residency on “Transcription factor induction of vascular blood stem cell niches in vivo” in *Developmental Cell*.

✦ Karen Lin, Aashu Patel, Amber Fleck will be presenting their QI project “Fed Up with Fasting: A Satisfying Change to Pre-Procedural Fasting for Pediatric Patients” at Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Toronto in May.

✦ Shane Clark received an American Federation for Medical Research scholar award for his clinical vignette “New-onset Jaundice in 13-Day Old Baby with Trisomy 21” which will be presented at the Southeastern Regional Meeting in May.

MP Crew at the Peds Holiday Party!

Bari Rosenberg volunteering with Dept of Peds at Ronald McDonald House!

MP3 Class Dinner! (Amber Fleck, Sam Collins, Karen Lin, Courtney Richman, Julia Hiserodt, Aashu Patel)
Resident Updates

✦ Amber Fleck will be present her research at the American Thoracic Society conference in San Diego this spring.

✦ Karen Lin was co-author on a multi-institutional project evaluating “Race, Ethnicity, Language, and the Treatment of Low-Risk Febrile Infants” published in JAMA Pediatrics. Courtney Richman also collaborated on this project.

✦ Sam Curtis published her work on "Use of Dexmedetomidine and Opioids in Hospitalized Preterm Infants" in JAMA Network Open. Sam was also the recipient of the 2024 National Med-Peds Program Director Association Walter W. Tunnessen, Jr Award.

✦ Noah Hellerman was awarded a 2024 Califf Resident Research Award and will present at Medicine Grand Rounds on May 10th for his work on “Readiness for Pediatric to Adult Healthcare Transition in Young Adult Hospitalized Patients”. He was mentored by MP Alum Ruchi Doshi (2021).

✦ Josh Mercer had an abstract accepted for publication for American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting 2024 titled “Timing of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation for myelofibrosis and other myeloproliferative neoplasms”.

✦ Brandon Moritz had a publication accepted to CHEST journal on “A 36-Year-Old Woman with Intermittent Cyanosis”.

✦ Sandra Loriaux was selected as one of the Internal Medicine Residency Program Chiefs for 2025-2026.

Graduate & Faculty Updates


✦ Kanecia Zimmerman (2011) was named Wilburt C Davison Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics.

✦ David Ming (2010) was awarded a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute grant on “Hospital-to Home Care Coordination for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs”.

✦ Richard Chung (2009) was featured on The Medicine Mentors Podcast on “Anchoring Ourselves to Joy in Medicine”. 

Govind Krishnan (2020) had baby Dhayaa!

Chris Zheng (2022) had baby Arman!
CONGRATULATIONS MP CLASS OF 2024!!
Where are they headed next?

Vivian Chen-Andrews – Hospitalist at DUH/DRH

Ashley Thrower – Hospitalist at DRH

Bari Rosenberg – Adult and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship at NIH and Johns Hopkins

Maxine Chan – Adult Infectious Disease Fellowship at Columbia

Sam Curtis – Pediatrics Chief Resident

Sandra Loriaux – Hospitalist at DUH

Maxine Chan