



# DUKE MEDICINE-PEDIATRICS

## Newsletter

### Inside

MP Alum Highlight 1-3  
 Meet the Class of 2029 4  
 Resident Updates 5  
 Goodbye MP Class of 2025 6  
 Graduate + Faculty Updates 7

### Alum Highlight: Jordan Averbach



Jordan (right) with wife Elizabeth!

### What attracted you to Duke Med-Peds and/or Durham?

Duke really had the best of everything. Both the medicine and pediatrics programs were incredibly strong, with excellent teaching across a wide range of subspecialties. I knew I'd get to learn from leaders in the field and maybe even see a few once-in-a-lifetime diagnoses—but more importantly, I felt confident that I'd come out with a solid foundation in general. I was also struck by how well-organized and integrated the Med-Peds program was. It was clear the leadership was deeply committed, and that we'd truly have a "home base" within the Med-Peds family. What really sealed the deal for me was meeting the residents over dinner—they were close-knit, genuine, and clearly enjoying their experience at Duke. That sense of community made the decision easy.

*Continued on Page 2*



First year Med-Peds class meeting!



Third year Med-Peds class meeting!

### Hello from the Program Director!

Greetings from Durham! As the academic year comes to a close, we celebrate our graduating residents as they venture on to fellowship or faculty positions, and our incoming interns as they begin their graduate medical training. I am continually amazed at the dedication of our residents and faculty, especially now in a time when science and education are being challenged on a national scale. I'm incredibly proud to work alongside them, and I thank all of the alumni for remaining as sources of inspiration in a very trying time. We have much to be thankful for as a program and within our Med-Peds community. Wishing you all the best. -Colby

## Alum Highlight Continued...

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

After residency, I moved to Houston to complete a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at Texas Children's Hospital. I then returned to Duke for a second fellowship as the inaugural Thomas Anstrom Fellow in Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD). After completing training, I was recruited to Phoenix Children's Hospital (by fellow Duke Med-Peds alum Wayne Franklin, MD, MBA), where I now serve as Director of the Stephen C. Grout Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program.

In addition to my clinical work, I spend much of my time focused on ACHD education and advocacy efforts through the American College of Cardiology (ACC). I currently serve on the Leadership Council for the ACC's Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology Section and co-chair the ACHD Work Groups and the ACHD Quality, Advocacy, and Access to Care Task Force.



Jordan Awerbach (left) with fellow Duke MP alum Wayne Franklin (2001) at the ACC Heart House for an ACHD

### 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?

Duke gave me the foundation I needed to care for incredibly complex patients—something that's at the heart of my work in adult congenital cardiology. The training pushed me to think critically, multitask effectively, and manage competing priorities—skills that are essential in a field where you're constantly navigating both pediatric and adult medicine. In ACHD, we often serve as the primary care provider for our patients, so having a strong general medicine background has been absolutely invaluable.

*Continued on Page 3*



Gathering after Sam Collins' SAR talk!

### 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 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, 300 W. Morgan Street, Suite 1200, Durham, NC 27701.

## Alum Highlight Continued...

**From your perspective, what can we do as a Med-Peds community to continue to advocate for quality health care for our patients and their families?**

We're practicing in a time when reputable science and evidence-based medicine are increasingly under threat. We have a responsibility not only to provide excellent care but also to educate our patients and families so they can make informed decisions in an often confusing landscape.

At Duke, I felt very fortunate to care for a large population of patients from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. With Medicaid and other public programs increasingly under threat, it is critical that we use our voices to advocate for the most vulnerable members of our society and their right to affordable, equitable, and high-quality healthcare.

**What brings you the most joy during at work and in your free time? What are you doing to stay grounded and centered during these tumultuous times?**

I'm incredibly lucky to have a supportive wife who helps keep me grounded, and we're fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the country with amazing weather and scenery. We spend a lot of time outdoors—biking, hiking, and hanging out with our dogs. And yes, for those who knew me during residency, I'm still baking!

**Any words of wisdom for current trainees?**

These are challenging times just to exist—so be kind to yourselves and take care of those around you. Make the most of your time at Duke by taking advantage of every opportunity to learn and grow, both clinically and personally. The relationships you build—with mentors, faculty, and especially your co-residents—will carry forward throughout your career.



Spring MP journal club gathering!



Sam Collins (MP4) with registrar and med students during her global health rotation in Eldoret, Kenya.



## *Welcome to the MP Class of 2029!*



**Sabrina Arezo**

UG: Brown University  
MS: Brown University



**Nissma Bencheikh**

UG: Univ of Calif, Berkeley  
MS: Univ of Calif, San Diego



**Grant Hiura**

UG: Univ of Calif, Berkeley  
MS: Loyola University Chicago



**Maria Salazar**

UG: Rice University  
MS: Baylor College of Medicine



**Nisha Uppuluri**

UG: Duke University  
MS: Univ of Calif, San Diego



**Elgin Yalin**

UG: UNC, Chapel Hill  
MS: UNC, Chapel Hill



Med-Peds resident switch party and holiday gathering!



Spring potluck gathering!

# Resident Updates

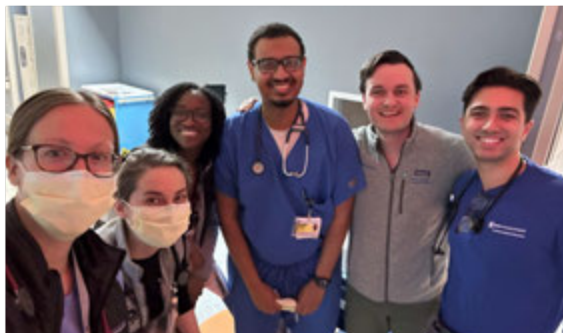
- ✦ **Michael Qureshi** (MP1) published a narrative review with colleagues at his medical school Florida International University on the Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Cancer Treatment Referrals in Patients Living with HIV in the United States. He also published a case report on posterior urethral valves in a healthy adult.
- ✦ **Kent Sutton** (MP1) had articles published on youth transportation safety in NC and association of elevated BMI with pain-associated psychological distress in patients with hip pain. He also had 2 presentations this past year.
- ✦ **Brandon Moritz** (MP2) received a Dept of Medicine Stead Resident Research Grant for his project titled "Transitions of Care: Improving Scheduled Hospital Follow-up and Reducing Readmissions for General Medicine Patients within the Duke University Health System with mentor David Halpern, MD, MPH.
- ✦ **Shane Clark** (MP3) received a Dept of Medicine Stead Resident Research Grant for his project titled "Pulse Check: ACHD Workforce Survey Insights" with mentor Richard Krasuski, MD.
- ✦ **Lily Suarez** (MP3) presented her QI/implementation science project on increasing WIC referrals in primary care clinic at the Pediatric Academic Societies and APA conferences. She received a Dept of Medicine Califf Resident Research Award and will be presenting at Medicine Grand Rounds in May 2025.

✦ **Josh Mercer** (MP3) (pictured right) won the Appleseed Teaching Award in IM.

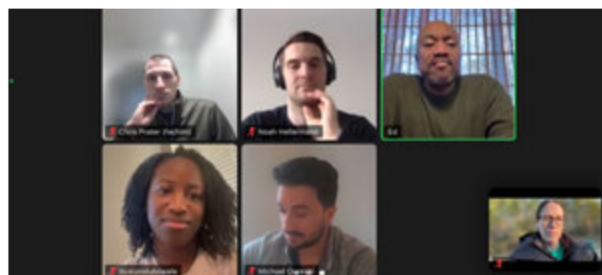
✦ **Amber Fleck** (MP4) (pictured left for her SAR talk) was selected as one of Internal Medicine Residency Chiefs for 2026-2027.

✦ **Julia Hiserodt** (MP4) received the Dept of Peds Award for her SAR talk on patient safety and handoffs and will present at Peds Grand Rounds in May 2025 (pictured right).

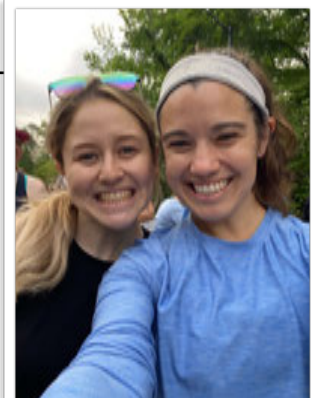
✦ **Courtney Bair** (MP1), **Michael Qureshi** (MP1), **Kent Sutton** (MP1), **Madi Bagley** (MP2), **Lauren Halsey** (MP2), **Noah Hellerman** (MP3), **Amber Fleck** (MP4), **Karen Lin** (MP4), **Aashu Patel** (MP4), and **Courtney Richman** (MP4) were all named by medical students as Particularly Effective Teachers on Pediatrics.



Med-Peds impromptu meet-up on the wards!



Equity & Inclusion Committee's virtual Listening and Learning Session



Madi Bagley (MP2) and Lily Suarez (MP3) running the Tarheel 10-Miler!

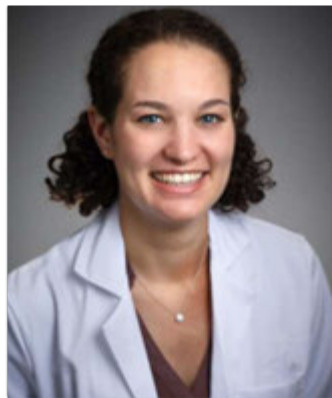


# CONGRATULATIONS MP CLASS OF 2025!!

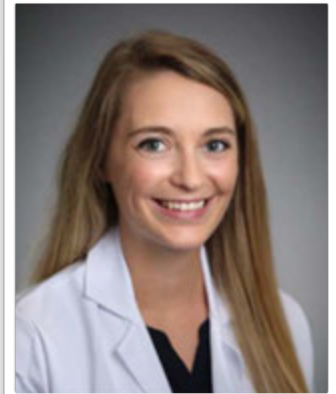
## Where are they headed next?



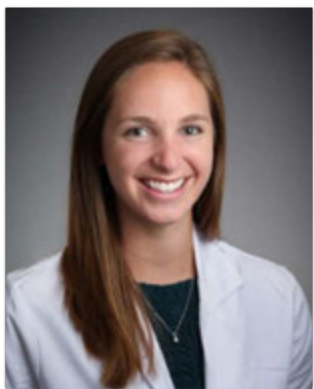
**Sam Collins** (pictured at Koromoshos Falls, Eldoret, Kenya) - Adult Heme/Onc at Columbia



**Julia Hiserodt** - Med-Peds Hospitalist at Duke



**Amber Fleck** - Combined Adult Pulm/Crit and Peds Pulm at Duke



**Courtney Richman** - Med-Peds Hospitalist at UTMB



**Aashu Patel** (pictured 3rd from right)- Med-Peds Hospitalist at Northwestern and Lurie Children's Hospital



**Karen Lin** - GME Quality and Safety Chief at Duke

## Graduate and Faculty Updates

**Grace Lee** (2022) was accepted into the National Clinical Scholars Program at Penn and will be completing a Masters in Science and Health Policy during her pediatric cardiology fellowship at CHOP.

**Haley Hostetler** (2018) an allergist with Central Oregon Pediatric Associates was featured in the news on a new oral immunotherapy program for children with severe allergies with the goal of increasing access and affordability of allergy treatment for rural Oregonians.

**Joel Boggan** (2013) published a systematic review and meta-analysis in *Annals of Internal Medicine* on association of post discharge contacts and health care utilization. This work was also featured in ACP Hospitalist. He also published a scoping review on health conditions seen frequently in hospitalized U.S. Veterans since 9/11/2001.

**Sandra Loriaux** (2024) will be a Duke Internal Medicine Residency Chief for 2025-2026.

**Chris Prater** (MP APD) gave a talk at Duke Pediatrics Grand Rounds on “Refugee Health: A Journey Through Clinical Cases and Lessons for Any Specialty”. He was also a panelist for the Duke Palliative Care Compassionate Care Conference on “Caring for Our Neighbors: Immigrant and Refugee Health”.

**Dan Ostrovsky** (MP clinic preceptor) accepted a position with Duke Health Technology Solutions and Dept of Peds as the Medical Informatician of Pediatric Primary Care and Population Health Informatics.



Sue Woods (1998) and Anita Ying (2003) catching up at the Duke Med Alumni dinner!



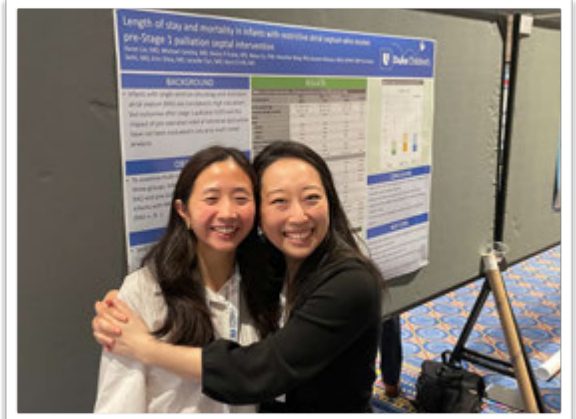
Lily Suarez (MP3) teaching about health and becoming a physician at a school.



Ashley Naughton (2019) added June Elizabeth to her family in summer 2024!



Mini-reunion in Durham for most of MP Class of 2003: Jamie Fox (2nd from left), Scott Robert (3rd from left), Anita Ying (center), Cindy Johnson (2nd from right).



Karen Lin (MP4) and Grace Lee (2022) meeting up at the CHOP Pediatric Cardiology conference.