Inside

Welcome from the Program Director

Spring is here at Duke and Durham! I am excited to celebrate our graduating class of seniors in June and to welcome a new class of interns. It has been a busy five+ months in my transition into the role of Program Director. There is still much to learn and much to accomplish but I am grateful every day for the Duke Med-Peds family – from residents to faculty here at Duke and beyond. I have reached out to several of you in this short time to connect you with trainees and will continue to do so in the future, so thank you in advance. One of the most valuable networks we have is each other. Stay in touch!


The nation-wide physician strike in Kenya from December 2016 to March 2017 gained international attention for being the “100-day strike” causing devastating impact on patients. The strike was in an effort to improve pay and working conditions for public sector physicians. Public sector physicians in Kenya have long received extremely low wages and worked grueling hours per week. They were also advocating for improvement in the conditions of the public healthcare facilities. Physicians are without a doubt in a high demand in Kenya. USA Today reported that there are 2 physicians for every 10,000 people in the country. So when the physicians went on strike to try to create change, even more Kenyans were out of health care. For those who could not afford to see private physicians, they went without it and countless died. Of the physicians left to pick up some of the pieces were Duke Med-Peds graduates.

Amy Lee, MD (’17) started her global health rotation in Tenwek, Kenya shortly after the strike began. She had been warned by fellow residents that the already busy clinical site was about to become even busier. Lee recalled, “Tenwek was one of the few hospitals that remained open, so natu-
Duke Med-Peds in Kenya, continued

rally, we were inundated with patients. I was rounding on anywhere from 40-60 patients a day with a limited number of clinical/medical officers as some chose to participate in the strike.”

Patients traveled long journeys to reach hospitals that were still open, often becoming sicker and sicker along the way. Lee stated “they were incredibly sick and often knocking at death's door…. Tenwek was always at maximum capacity and bursting at its seams. There was no such thing as being on divert.” Often the beds held 2-3 patients at one time. Tim Mercer, MD, MPH ('15) was in Eldoret, Kenya during the strike as the Medical Team Lead for AMPATH, an alliance between Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) and medical centers in the United States and Canada. He reflected, “I covered both medicine and pediatrics wards at MTRH and coordinated most of the coverage among the long-term North American faculty, plus the residents, for the entire strike. I will say it was the most harrowing, bordering on traumatic, experience of my professional career.”

Not only was the access to care and patient census enormously challenging, but also Lee and Mercer were treating tropical dis-

Continued page 4
Graduate and Faculty Updates

Suzanne Woods (1998) was awarded the 2018 Leadership in Med-Peds Award at the National Med-Peds Program Directors Association conference.

Rebecca Sadun (2014) was elected into the Duke University School of Medicine chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. She will be completing fellowship this year and staying with Duke Rheumatology with funding from 2 grants: The Rheumatology Research Foundation and Translating Duke Health Immunology.

Amy Lee (2017) will be completing her Palliative Care fellowship this year and staying on as faculty at Duke. She will be working in the Duke Med Peds Faculty Resident Clinic.

David Ming (2010) was promoted to be the Associate Director of QI and Research for Hospital Medicine at Duke University Hospital.

Kristen Ito (2003) was promoted to be the Chief of Medicine at Lincoln Community Clinic in Durham.

Tim Mercer (2015) was promoted to be the Director of Global Health at The University of Texas Dell Medical School.


Nick Turner (2016) published his article “Influence of Reported Penicillin Allergy on Mortality in MSSA Bacteremia” in Open Forum Infectious Diseases in March 2018.


Weijan Chang (1998) was promoted to Chief of the Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine at Baystate Children’s Hospital.

Ketan Shah (2012) was recognized for his procedural skills performing Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF). Check out more here: http://ow.ly/vX9n30jNU75

Bimal Patel (2017) will be leaving his job as a Duke Regional Hospital hospitalist and starting to work as a Med Peds physician through the Indian Health Service in Shiprock, NM.

Phoebe Jane Greene was born December 5, 2017 to John (2015) and Emily Greene and big brothers, Teddy and Henry.

Sylvie Monaco Turissini was born on March 20, 2018 to parents, Matthew Turissini (2017) and Laura Ruhl and big sister, Mila.
Med-Peds in Kenya, continued

eases rarely or never seen during their training at Duke, such as cerebral malaria, tetanus, TB meningitis, cholera, and typhoid.

Since the strike ended in January 2017, there have been several other strikes. Matthew Turissini, MD (*17), who succeeded Mercer in his role with AMPATH, stated that there was a nurse strike during the summer of 2017, and that there is currently a strike of University physicians, which includes medical students and residents. Logan Eberly, MD (*18) spent his global health rotation in Eldoret from January to March of this year, also helping to treat patients during trying times. Throughout all of this strife, the people of Kenya and the physicians working during these conditions have proven their resilience. Lee remembered, “there were always uplifting messages scattered throughout the hospital, such as "mungu anakupenda" or “God loves you”, and "usikufe moyo" or “never give up”, sometimes in the most unsuspecting places - from the walls to the windows, from old wooden benches to random places on the ground.” She said, “Even though it was incredibly busy and patients came incredibly sick, there was a strong sense of purpose, hope and camaraderie that was always uplifting.”

Logan Eberly (*18) rounding with the medical team in Kenya. During the strike, he was one of few physicians in the hospital to treat patients.

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.
Meet the Class of 2022!

Sam Dizon, MD
BS: Loyola University Maryland
MD: University of Maryland School of Medicine
Hometown: New York, NY

Erin Frost, MD
BS: Canisius College
MD: University of Buffalo–Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Hometown: Buffalo, NY

Grace Lee, MD
BS: University of Maryland
MD: University of Maryland School of Medicine
Hometown: Bethesda, MD

Kevin Prier, MD
BA: Brigham Young University
MD: University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas
Hometown: Houston, TX

Zach Sutton, MD
BS: UNC-Chapel Hill
MD: Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Hometown: Kinston, NC

Christopher Zheng, MD
BS: Cornell University
MD: The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Hometown: Beijing, China

Dinner among current and past Med-Peds residents.

Matt McCulloch, Aimee Chung, Govind Krishnan, and Justin Yoo at the Spring Potluck.
Trainee News

Congratulations to Logan and Ellie Eberly for getting married on December 31st.

Academic Products

Ashley Hanlon presented her work titled “Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) and cardiovascular mortality (CVD) in men with early-stage prostate cancer (PC) receiving curative radiation therapy (RT)” at the ASCO Cancer Survivorship Symposium: Advancing Care and Research Conference in Orlando, FL in February, 2018.

Kathleen Wood and Jane Trinh. Syphilis: The Great Pretender is Still among Us. Presented at the NC ACP Meeting in Greensboro, NC in February.


Sarah Cohen, Ashley Naughton, Rebecca Ruf, and James Fox, MD. Close the Loop: Resident perceptions of feedback on the diagnostic process. Presented at the Duke Health Patient Safety and Quality Conference in Durham, NC in March and the Duke Pediatric Research Retreat in April.


Rebecca Ruf, Scott Sexton, Carolyn Avery, Jane Trinh. "Who is this patient’s PCP?" - A Quality Improvement Initiative to Improve the Accuracy of the EMR PCP Field. Presented at the Duke Pediatric Research Retreat in April.

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

Logan Eberly — Adult Cardiology at Emory
Ashley Hanlon — Adult Hematology/Oncology at Duke
Haley Hostetler — Allergy/Immunology at Duke
Laura Miller — Neonatology at Duke
Pavle Milutinovic — Allergy/Immunology at NIH
John Paul Shoup — Durham VA Medical Center Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Chief