Alumni Update: Andy Livingston

From North Carolina to Texas, Andy Livingston shares how and why he is now the co-director of the AYA Cancer program at MD Anderson.

Why did you choose Duke?
When I was applying, I was certain on wanting to pursue med-peds training but was undecided about where that path would take me post-residency. I chose Duke because of the strength of both the internal medicine and pediatrics programs, the well-established med-peds presence, the diversity of opportunities and career paths of former trainees following residency, and of course, the great people I met when I came to interview at Duke.

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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello from Duke Med-Peds! It's now starting to feel like fall after a prolonged summer, and we are heading into another recruitment season. We have had a busy few months with our new interns starting, MP4’s interviewing and our MP2 and MP3 residents transitioning into more and more supervisory and leadership roles. It was fun to connect with Andy Livingston recently and I am glad that everyone has an opportunity to learn about the great things he is doing at MD Anderson. Thank you in advance for your continued support to the MP residency fund. It is providing residents with opportunities to travel to meetings to present scholarly work! Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season. -Jane
What did you do following residency? Following residency, I completed fellowship in adult hematology and medical oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC). I went on to serve as the Chief Fellow of the MDACC Fellowship Program during my 3rd year of fellowship. I briefly considered completing an additional fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology given my interest in adolescents with cancer but ultimately decided 7 years of training was enough.

What is your current role(s)? I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sarcoma Medical Oncology and hold a joint appointment in Pediatrics at MD Anderson Cancer Center. I also serve as the Co-Director for the MD Anderson Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Program, a program I helped to develop and officially launch in June of 2018.

What is your favorite part of the work you do? Being in clinic and caring for AYA patients. My sarcoma clinic is largely focused on young adults with osteosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, and rhabdomyosarcoma. As a sarcoma medical oncologist, I work closely with a multidisciplinary team of surgeons and radiation oncologists and am fortunate to develop meaningful long term relationships with my patients and their families. In the Adolescent and Young Adult Clinic, I see AYAs with all types of cancer at various timepoints in their cancer journey to provide focused supportive care during treatment and into survivorship.

What motivated you to do this work? I first became interested in AYAs with cancer during my time at Duke. Around that time, there was a growing awareness of the unique needs and discrepantly poor survival outcomes for teens and young adults with cancer diagnosed between ages 15-39 and initial studies in ALL showed that AYAs do better when treated with pediatric-type regimens. I saw an opportunity to improve outcomes for these patients by understanding the disease biology and identifying the best treatment regimens. The greatest motivation is seeing the success of our young adult patients once they complete their cancer treatment and get back to college, careers, family, etc.

How do you think the Duke Med-Peds Residency Program helped you to prepare for your career? Combined med-peds training gave me an opportunity and unique skillset to understand and address the specific needs of AYAs with cancer. AYAs have emerged as an at-risk group in cancer care because historically their needs were not adequately being met by either pediatric or adult oncologists. At Duke, I had the opportunity to work with these patients in both the pediatric oncology clinic and on 9100, experiences that shaped my understanding of the age-specific patient needs and see both sides of treatment (pediatric and adult).

What do you like to do in your free time? I spend my free time with my family: my wife Robin and two sons, Luke and Tommy (ages 3 years and 9 months). We love to travel, cook, and watch the Astros.

Do you have any advice for current trainees? Pursue a career that inspires you to come to work each day. Your med-peds training gives you a unique perspective and a diversity of opportunities. If a program or career path doesn’t exist, don’t be afraid to create it.
GRADUATE AND FACULTY UPDATES

- Rajiv Jain (2000) is the team physician for the Buffalo Sabres NHL team.
- Christian Ramers (2007) was named 2019 Physician of the Year by the American Liver Foundation Pacific Coast Division.
- Sima Pendharker (2012) and her team at the Brooklyn Hospital Center were the recipients of the 2019 Joan F. Giambalvo Fund for the Advancement of Women through the American Medical Association for their project titled “Women physicians in transition: Learning to navigate the pipeline from early to mid-career”.
- Dan Ostrovsky (core faculty) was awarded a 2019 Pediatric Industry Award from the NC Pediatric Society.
- Carolyn Avery (2013) is now the Medical Director of the Duke Health Center at Roxboro Street, and the Medical Director of Pediatrics for the Medicaid Clinical Integrated Network, Duke Connected Care.
- Recent graduate, Sarah Cohen (2019), will have her article about the disclosure of medical errors published in Pediatrics in Review. Look for it in January 2020.
- Two Duke Med-Peds 1998 alumni lead the way for Pediatric Hospital Medicine. Check out the efforts of Dr. Suzanne Woods, the ABP’s Executive Vice President of Credentialing and Initial Certification, and Dr. Weijian Chang, hospital medicine leader and PHM Division Chief at Baystate.

- John Paul Shoup (2018) and wife, Melanie, welcomed Luzy Azelie to the family in August.
- David Ming (2010) received a 3-year K12 career development grant for Dissemination and Implementation Science in Cardiovascular Outcomes (DISCO). His research focus is on population health strategies for children with medical complexity.
- Dana Clifton (2016) through her Clinical Innovation Award has recently received two General Internal Medicine Excellence Awards - the Early Career Research Award and the Quality Improvement Award. She was promoted to Assistant Professor this Fall.
- Duke Med-Peds teamed up with the Med-Peds programs at ECU and UNC to run the City of Oaks race in Raleigh. The advocacy run raised $1225 for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Go Duke (in the blue shirts)!

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 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.
Meet the Class of 2023!

**Sarah Dillon**
Sarah joins us from UVA School of Medicine. She grew up in Richmond, VA and went to College of William and Mary where she received a bachelor degree in Neuroscience and Philosophy. In medical school, Sarah was inducted into the AOA honor society and led a project to research patients with high hospital utilization. She is an avid yogi and used to teach yoga classes during medical school!

**Andrew Morgan**
Andrew has stayed close to his roots. He grew up in Carrboro, NC, obtained his undergraduate degree from UNC, and then went on to earn his MD/PhD from UNC. He has earned various awards for his work in biological sciences and bioinformatics, and hopes to apply population genetics and genomics to study distribution of hereditary disease risk. He and his wife, Katie, are busy with a new daughter, Louisa, born in May.

**Sriya Muralidharan**
Sriya hails from Carmel, IN and went to Brown University for her undergraduate and medical degrees. There she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. In addition to basic science research, she studied medical student burnout and founded a student group to raise awareness and petition for changes to gun control laws. In her downtime, she enjoys playing golf and creative writing.

**Ben Redpath**
Ben grew up in Lake Barrington, IL. He went to Emory University for his undergraduate, MD/MPH degrees. He was active in a student group to deliver Street Medicine to the homeless population in Atlanta, and also spent time in China researching health impacts of air pollution. He enjoys Chinese culture and plays multiple instruments, and used to play in an Indie rock band in China for 2 years!

**Emily Zalimeni**
Emily is a North Carolina native, growing up in Elon. She went to UNC to earn her undergraduate, MD/MPH degrees. While at UNC, she was inducted into the AOA and Gold Humanism honor societies, and she did research in a variety of topics including health literacy in pediatric patients with diabetes. She and her husband enjoy traveling and hosting game nights together.
RESIDENT UPDATES

- Govind Krishnan married Aarthy Sundar on August 25, 2019. Govind was also selected to be the 2020-2021 VA Chief Resident for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety.
  - Austin Wesevich received two grants for a Patient-Centered Daily Plan project- one from the National Med-Peds Residents’ Association (NMPRA), and the other from The Beryl Institute.
  - Ruchi Doshi and Henry Foote earned 3rd place in the poster competition at the 2019 NC Pediatric Society conference.

- Andrew Morgan was inducted into the Robert J. Lefkowitz Society, a selective scientific and mentoring community for trainees pursuing careers with a primary focus on basic and translational research.

- Claudia Leung and Austin Wesevich were accepted into the 2019-2020 cohort of the Learning Health System Training Program.

- Claudia Leung and Austin Wesevich were also accepted into the Future Leaders Program of the High Value Practice Academic Alliance.

Bottom left: Amadea Britton and E-beth Hubbard (Ockerman) present at the AAP Section of Med-Peds poster session. **Upper left:** Austin Wesevich presents at ID week. **Upper right:** Residents and Roxboro Clinic attendings celebrate with birthday cupcakes. **Bottom Left:** Justin Yoo presents at NC Pediatric Society annual meeting.
Recent Trainee Posters and Publications


- Austin Wesevich presented a poster at ID week in October. His work about Klebsiella aerogenes BSI was then featured up in the IDSA Daily News Brief.
  

- Med-Peds represented several posters at the NC Pediatrics Society Annual Meeting!
  
  
  
  
  - Smith M, Wood K, Cason R. Stuck Between the Stones and a Hard Place: A Unique Etiology of Acute Kidney Injury in an Infant.
  
  
  - Ockerman E, Yoo J, Trinh J. How Efficiency Tools May Obstruct Diagnosis: A Case of Aortic Coarctation.
  
  
  

END OF YEAR AWARDS

- Govind Krishnan and Ashley Naughton received DOM Resident Appleseed awards.
- Grace Lee received the Dr. Robert Drucker teaching award from the medical school.
- Courtney Lamberton won a Department of Pediatrics Appleseed award.

Class of 2019 at the Med-Peds Senior Dinner