Alumni Update: Kristin Meade

Kristin Meade (2010 graduate) shares her path in palliative care. November is national hospice and palliative care month.

What are you doing now?
Adult Palliative Care (inpatient consults at DUH and DRH, and 9300 solid tumor service), as well as serving as a consultant on the Clinical Ethics Consult Service.

How did you get to where you are now?
After residency, I did a pediatric palliative care fellowship at Akron Children's Hospital, then returned here on faculty in palliative care. For many years, I did both adult and pediatric palliative care, but transitioned into adult palliative care only in 2017.

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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the time of the last newsletter, we were about a month into the COVID pandemic. What a year 2020 has been. With COVID and the movement to address racial, social and structural inequities, we have been challenged in many aspects of our lives, including our ability to connect in person with our loved ones. Our interns started their year with virtual orientation, and the hospital is as busy as ever. We kicked off our first ever virtual recruitment season. There are no traditional holiday parties (one of the benefits of Med-Peds – double holiday parties!) and no recruitment dinners to attend. However, our residents continue to amaze me with their adaptability, resilience, camaraderie and kindness. These last eight months have given us an opportunity to look for different ways to support the safety and well-being of our residents, to build our awareness of systemic biases and mistreatment, and to learn how to create a more inclusive environment so that we can better care for each other and our patients. I am hopeful for 2021 and I wish you the best in these unprecedented times. Be well and stay in touch. -Jane
What has motivated you to do this work?

I became interested in palliative care in medical school, and became a hospice volunteer during that time. I've always been intrigued by the overlap of complex medical problems, interpersonal dynamics, spirituality, psychology, ethics and law that come together in palliative care.

What are the greatest challenges in doing palliative care?

People always assume that taking care of very sick and dying patients is the hardest part, but I have always found that these experiences are many of the most rewarding experiences I have had in medicine. Being allowed into those sacred and powerful moments is such an incredible gift, and knowing that my training and expertise can help make those awful situations a little less awful is immensely gratifying and meaningful for me. What I find most challenging is that we are often consulted to help out in very intense situations in the hospital when there are serious conflicts, ripe with intense anger, distrust, unrealistic or irrational expectations, poor coping skills, psychologic challenges, or poor communication. While it can ultimately be a rewarding challenge to try to help de-escalate these situations, build trust, and address the emotions and communication gaps that underlay these conflicts, the intensity of these experiences can also be quite exhausting, especially as someone who dislikes conflict!

How do you think the Duke Med-Peds helped you to prepare for your career?

I think my training at Duke was top notch, and gave me the foundation in medicine that is essential to do palliative care well. Although I chose med/peds as my residency with a clear goal of going into palliative care and feeling that it provided the best foundation, I ended up choosing to focus on adult PC, not because I disliked pediatric PC, but because I realized adult PC was where I found the greatest professional joy. Despite making this decision, I have no regrets about doing the dual training, and feel that what I learned in pediatrics makes me a better physician and a better palliative care provider. Because of my peds training and experience, I am more comfortable caring for the growing population of "peds graduates" who, because of medical advances, are now living into adulthood with classic pediatric diseases -- CP, DMD, complex cardiac diseases, genetic and metabolic diseases, etc. I also think that pediatrics training prepares you very well for the "soft skills" (e.g. family centered care) that are essential for palliative care. Pictured below: Kristin with the other MP women of 2010.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I'm a single parent to a 6 year-old son, so "free time" is a bit elusive. Caring for him takes up most of my time outside of work, especially in the midst of a pandemic! I'm happiest when I'm playing goofing off with my son, playing outside (hiking, gardening, cycling, etc), working on projects (art work, home improvement projects), hanging out with friends and family, or traveling.

Any words of wisdom for current trainees?

Follow your heart and work to find balance in your life. We all get to this point in our professional lives by pushing harder and succeeding academically, and completing medical training and professional success requires sacrifices. After a major health challenge, I realized that while practicing medicine brings me joy, it is only a part of who I am and what I want in my life. I made the decision to pull back to working part time and it has been a wonderful decision. This decision has helped me find a better balance, and that balance has, in turn, helped me be a better clinician. And feeling like I am providing the best possible bedside care is what really brings me joy professionally. This specific decision won't be right for many, but I think that it's always right to follow your heart -- trying to do more of what you love, less of what you don't, and finding that balance will help you be better at your job.
GRADUATE AND FACULTY UPDATES

• Jane Trinh (2006) has been named the inaugural chief of the Division of Med-Peds at Duke!
• Recent graduate, Amadea Britton (2020), tied the knot with husband, Benson, in October. Congrats Amadea and Benson!
• Ann Marie Navar (2013) is now Associate Professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine (Cardiology) and Population and Data Sciences at UT Southwestern Medical Center.
• Stephen Dolgner (2013) is now Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, caring for children and adults with congenital heart disease. Check out his recent publication in ASAIO, titled “Outcomes of Adults with Congenital Heart Disease Supported with Extracorporeal Life Support after Cardiac Surgery”.
• Anna Dolgner (2014) is now an Assistant Professor in the Section of General Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. She is working at Ben Taub General Hospital.
• Carolyn Avery (2013) received a $75,000 award from the AAP for project entitled “Carolinass Collaborative 2.0 Strengthening Support for Vulnerable Families”.
• Alyssa Stephany (2008) is now the Director of the Physician Leadership Center at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas. She is in charge of developing and coaching 800 providers!
• Christy Boling Turer (2008) recently published “Clinical Decision Support for the Diagnosis and Management of Adult and Pediatric Hypertension”.
• Olivia Granillo Johnson (2012) joined as Clinical Adjunct Faculty at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine.
• Haley Hostetler (2018) started on faculty at Duke SOM in the Dept of Peds, Division of Allergy and Immunology.
• David Ming (2010) recently published in Hospital Pediatrics, “The Intersection of Complex Care and Hospital Medicine: Opportunities to Advance Health for Chronically Ill Populations”.
• Sima Pendharkar (2012) published in JAMA Internal Medicine, Journal of General Internal Medicine, and Global Psychiatry on physician suicide. Check out "Physician Suicide: A Scoping Literature Review to Highlight Opportunities for Prevention" here. She has also been recently named System Chief of Hospital Medicine for Guthrie Medical group in Brooklyn, NY.
• In the News! Over the summer, Jon Bae (2009) and Richard Chung (2009) helped inform the community about COVID-19. Anna Dolgner (2014) and Weijen Chang (1998) were featured in The Hospitalist!
Meet the Class of 2024!

Maxine Chan
Maxine hails from New Jersey and went to Cornell for a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering. Maxine joins us from Rutgers Medical School where she was in the AOA. She is interested in medical education. Growing up, her mother—a chemist—would bring Maxine and her sister books on pedagogy! She even researched residency milestones during medical school. Maxine enjoys singing and playing piano.

Vivian Chen-Andrews
Vivian is originally from Raleigh and went to UNC for UG. Fun fact—she went to NC School of Math & Science! At Miami SOM, she was inducted into AOA. She matched in NC with her husband (Neurology at UNC). Vivian is interested in medical education, and her volunteer work throughout medical school was recognized by being inducted into the GHHS. Vivian is full of style and enjoys sustainable fashion and calligraphy.

Sandra Loriaux
Sandra was is from Virginia, partly in the D.C. area and part in her family’s farm in rural VA. She attended UVA for UG before making her way to Duke for medical school. Prior to medical school, she was a public health intern in Thailand. During medical school, she extended her third year to do additional research in the field of immunology. She has strong interests in transition. In her free time, she enjoys yoga and spending time with her husband and dog.

Bari Rosenberg
Bari is originally from Massachusetts and went to MIT for UG. Before medical school at Emory, she was a clinical research coordinator at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for two years on a variety of projects. She is interested in adolescent and young adult oncology and cancer survivorship as a career. Bari volunteered with children with disabilities to share her love of dance. She also enjoys baking. Her sweet creations are enjoyed by all!

Ashley Thrower
Ashley is from Miami, FL but has been in North Carolina for the last 8 years, completing UG and medical school at UNC. During medical school, she researched sickle cell disease, earning her awards from the American Society of Hematology in 2017 and 2018. She plans to dedicate her career to the care of patients with SCD. Ashley enjoys being with her daughter (Ava, 6 years), listening to music, exercising and supporting minorities in medicine.
RESIDENT UPDATES

• Marge DeOliveira received a 2020 ASN Kidney STARS award!
• Austin Wesevich received a 2020 Internal Medicine Stead Resident Research Grant.
• Ashley Thrower was given a special plaque as a thank you from a patient’s family she cared for in the ICN.
• Grace Lee was selected to be on the GME Resident Council!
• Connor Moseley and Celia Reynolds welcomed daughter, Sofia, on April 29, 2020.
• The Duke Med-Peds and Duke Peds team participated in the virtual 5K-Run to Save Lives through Vaccine Ambassadors. The team raised the equivalent of 1,414 pentavalent vaccines for children and infants living in Venezuela.

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 from 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.

Med-Peds shows up big at end-of-year awards!
• E-beth Hubbard was selected by second year medical students as best exemplifying medical professionalism.
• YT Chen Award for Educators: Govind Krishnan
• Appleseed Awards: Sriya Muralidharan for peds, Marge DeOliveira and Samantha Dizon for medicine
• Dr. Drucker Award for Medical Student Education: Ben Redpath and Henry Foote
• William Bell Award for Best Catch: Amadea Britton
• James Stockman Award: Govind Krishnan
• Pediatrics SAR talk award: Govind Krishnan
• Karen Frush EM Award: E-beth Hubbard
• Medicine SAR talk Award: Amadea Britton
• Clinical Skills Foundation Professionalism Awards: Sriya Muralidharan for residents and Aimee Chung for faculty
Recent Trainee Posters and Publications


