



## Congratulations to the class of 2023!

HERE'S WHERE THEY MATCHED:

### **Miracle Diala**

Transitional Year at Medical College of Wisconsin; Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at University of Louisville

### **Caroline Fernandes**

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Texas Tech University

### **Vivian Jin**

Otolaryngology at University of Texas

### **Claudia Kazmirak**

Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern University

### **Deepika Khanna**

Obstetrics and Gynecology at Johns Hopkins University

### **Christopher Llerena**

Internal Medicine at Boston University

### **Annik Lupieri**

Otolaryngology at University of Illinois at Chicago

### **Diana Rapolti**

General Surgery at Southern Illinois University



### **Gabriele Ruzgas**

Family Medicine at University of Pennsylvania

### **Nicole Zolman**

Obstetrics and Gynecology at University of Illinois at Chicago

## Meet our new M1 class!

HERE IS WHERE THEY COMPLETED THEIR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES:

### **Chika Anikamadu**

University of Chicago

### **Gloria Cheng**

University of Southern California

### **Olivia Jazbutis**

University of Notre Dame

### **Giselle Striedinger**

Villanova University



### **Nancy Kaul**

McGill University

### **Ria Subramanian**

University of Illinois Chicago

### **Caitlin McBride**

Johns Hopkins University

### **Nicholas Tomaras**

Loyola University

### **Ebony Mocanu**

University of California San Diego

### **JJ Narayan**

University of California Berkeley

### **Kahaan Shah**

Pomona College

### **Kristen Stark**

Davidson College

# UPDATES: GMED AND UIC CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

## GMED ORIENTATION

Starting in 2021, GMED instituted a two-day orientation to offer the opportunity for more peer cohort building and to expand our program content. New sessions have afforded incoming students the ability to critically self-reflect on their motivations for working in global health, personal identities, and considerations of power and privilege. In addition, students learn about structural violence and the history of the origins of “global health” with the aim of working collaboratively and ethically and avoiding mistakes of the past. Finally, students have the opportunity to meet international collaborators, UIC faculty working in global health, UIC students, and upper class GMED students to hear the voices and perspectives of many stakeholders working for health equity.

## GMED SIMULATION

In 2019, with the opening of the new cutting-edge Simulation and Integrative Learning (SAIL) Institute, GMED had the opportunity to expand our M3-M4 simulation cases to include cases focused on ethics in global health and practice in low-resource settings. In 2023, we received the support and approval from the COM to require at least one of these sessions so that GMED students might be excused from their clerkships to participate. This has provided a great opportunity for continued interactive learning during Phase 2/3 of the COM curriculum to explore these topics in greater depth.

## CGH DOCUMENTARY FILMS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

In fall 2022, the CGH initiated a film series of documentary films on global health. This series raises awareness about global health issues, promotes

cultural diversity through film, and brings people together to create and strengthen our global health community. Finally, it offers a space for reflection and discussion about the values, practices, achievements, and challenges of global health through a humanitarian perspective. Our first film, “Wake up on Mars,” featured a Roma boy living in Sweden who dreamt of building a spaceship to escape the reality of his family’s pending asylum request, and the mysterious coma-like illness that has befallen his siblings. The film “Eternal Harvest” introduced Laotians who live with the threat of unexploded ordnance in their fields from US bombing during the Vietnam War. Our next film, “How I Live,” focuses on the lived experiences of cancer patients, and the perspectives of their providers, in different LMIC countries. After each film, we have invited speakers that talk about their expertise to spark a discussion. Come join us for our upcoming movie events!

## CGH BETTER TOGETHER: A GLOBAL HEALTH PODCAST!

We have a podcast! Give it a listen. We started the podcast to share stories and pearls of wisdom from colleagues working in global health and to learn how we can have a positive lasting impact on health in our communities, locally and globally. So far, we have featured guests working in numerous sectors of global health highlighting themes of collaboration, research, capacity building, environmental health, disaster response, and decolonialism in global health. Upcoming episodes will feature asylum medicine and working with Doctors Without Borders. Tune in or suggest a guest to feature!

## Check out these recent selected GMED alumni publications!

Vardhan S, Rana MN, and Al-Kindi S. South Asian Nativity And Cardiometabolic Risk Factors In Pregnant Women In The United States. May 12, 2022. Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes. 2022;15:A180.

Abbas A, Laverde R, Yap A, Stephens C, Samad L, Seyi-Olajide J, Ameh E, Ozgediz D, Lakhoo K, Bickler S, Meara J, Bundy D, Jamison D, Klazura G, Sykes A, Sama Philipo G; Routine Pediatric Surgical Emergencies: Incidence, Morbidity, and Mortality During the 1st 8000 Days of Life - A Narrative Review. World Journal of Surgery c. 2023 June 21

Banu T, Sharma S, Chowdhury TK, Aziz TT, Martin B, Seyi-Olajide JO, Ameh E, Ozgediz D, Lakhoo K, Bickler SW, Meara JG, Bundy D, Jamison DT, Klazura G, Sykes A, Yap A, Philipo GS; GICS. Surgically Correctable Congenital Anomalies: Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in the First 8000 Days of Life. World J Surg. 2023 Jun 13.

Klazura G, Park P, Yap A, Laverde R, Bryce E, Cheung M, Bioh E, Kisa P, Kakembo N, Ugazzi M, Situma M, Borgstein E, Derbew M, Negash S, Tadesse A, Bvulani B, Ki B, Toussaint T, Bokhary Z, Philipo GS, Ameh E, Mulewa M, Mwansa J, Onah I, Amado V, De Ugarte D, Massaga F, Byabato S, Adeyemo WL, Ogunlewe O, Nandi B, Ozgediz D. Pediatric Surgical Waitlist in Low Middle Income Countries During the COVID-19 Pandemic. J Surg Res. 2023 Aug;288:193-201.

Klazura G, Kisa P, Wesonga A, Nabukenya M, Kakembo N, Nimanya S, Naluyimbazi R, Sekabira J, Ozgediz D, Langer M. Pediatric surgery backlog at a Ugandan tertiary care facility: COVID-19 makes a chronic problem acutely worse. Pediatr Surg Int. 2022 Oct;1391-1397.

Sanghvi RI, Songolo T. What Is the Current Status of Global Health Training for US Postgraduate Trainees in Anesthesiology? What Are Possible Visions for the Future? Curr Anesthesiol Rep. 2023;13(2):99-107.

Case AS, Miller PE, Hager DN. Reflections on the Use of High-Dependency Units for Patients With Acute Myocardial Infarction. Crit Care Med. 2023 Feb 1;51(2):e62-e63.

**Natasha Mehta** (2021) is in a Global Health residency at Stanford and had the opportunity to spend 6 weeks in Harare, Zimbabwe learning from and working with doctors at the largest government hospital in Zimbabwe last year.

**Mohannad Safadi** (2022) is beginning global health training in residency in the Graduate Global Health Program for residents/fellows at UIC.

**Chase Westra** (2019) taught the WHO Basics of Emergency Care (BEC) Course to 40 medical students in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Peter Wickwire** (2016) took a short trip to Kijabe, Kenya as a resident to perform broad spectrum, subspecialty care to their local hospital. Surgeries included airway reconstruction, complex sinonasal/skull base surgery, endocrine, eccrine, and craniomaxillofacial trauma surgery.

**Greg Klazura** (2018) completed a global surgery joint UIC, UCSF and Fulbright- Fogarty Fellowship in Global Health, including research and clinical training in Uganda.



*Tosha Becerra Songolo teaching Mozambican anesthesiology residents how to do ultrasound-guided nerve blocks.*

**Tosha Becerra Songolo** (2019) completed anesthesiology residency and a Global Health and Policy Fellowship at UC San Diego and spent

part of her fellowship year in Maputo, Mozambique working with the Maputo Central Hospital's Department of Anesthesiology to improve their resident educational curriculum, procedural skills and research opportunities.

**Pat Lanter** (2017) did an ultrasound needs-assessment at Salvador Gautier Hospital in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; developed a hybrid ultrasound training program at University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK) in Kigali, Rwanda; assessed the utility of ocular ultrasound for pre-operative screening for cataract surgery in the Cure Blindness microsurgical outreach program; taught at the University of Global Health Equity for the Emergency Medicine Clerkship in Butaro, Rwanda; revised Pre-Hospital Protocols for EMRI (EMS agency) in Hyderabad, India; and taught EMS students at EMRI in Hyderabad, India!

**Michael Dienstbach** (2018) completed a global health curriculum at Ohio State during residency in addition to regular volunteering at a free Spanish speaking clinic. He recently gave a lecture on diabetes to internal medicine residents in Ethiopia.

**Katherine Reifler** (2018) began working on Chagas disease research during residency and fellowship focusing on people living in Boston with Chagas disease identified through their immigrant and refugee clinic. In the past year, she started working with a group in two countries where Chagas is endemic—Peru and Bolivia.

**Taka Yamaguchi** (2020) took part in a pandemic food insecurity



*Parrots in Bolivian bird sanctuary where Katherine Reifler visited while researching Chagas disease.*

emergency for undocumented families in Providence, RI.

**Darshana Bhattacharyya** (2016) completed a global health rotation in residency delivering primary care at rural Guatemalan clinics through the Mayan Health Alliance Wuqu' Kawoq. Following residency, she started an outpatient psychiatric clinic at a critical access hospital in rural Minnesota. Currently, she is part of the Psychiatry Department at GWU, where she practices outpatient psychiatry and is setting up collaborative care with primary care.

**Giancarlo Saldana** (2019) did volunteer work during his residency in free clinics for undocumented immigrants.

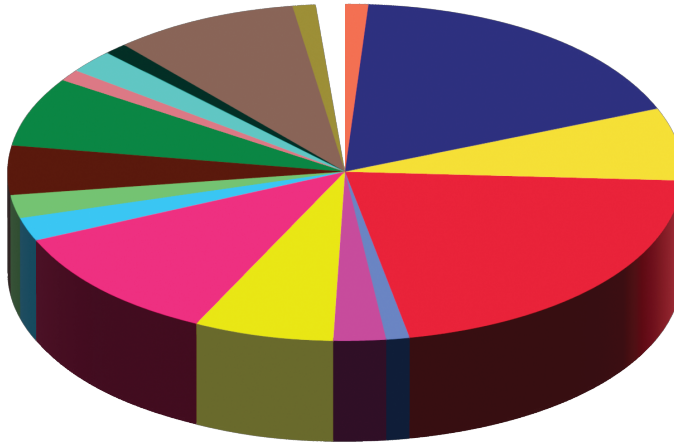
**Duaa Sharfi** (2017) completed a global ophthalmology fellowship and separate curriculum with Emory's Global Health Institute and is now starting her second year of Oculoplastic surgery fellowship!

**Amina Basha** (2017) went to Pakistan during residency to do a needs assessment on safe needle use in clinics in and around Lahore, Pakistan.



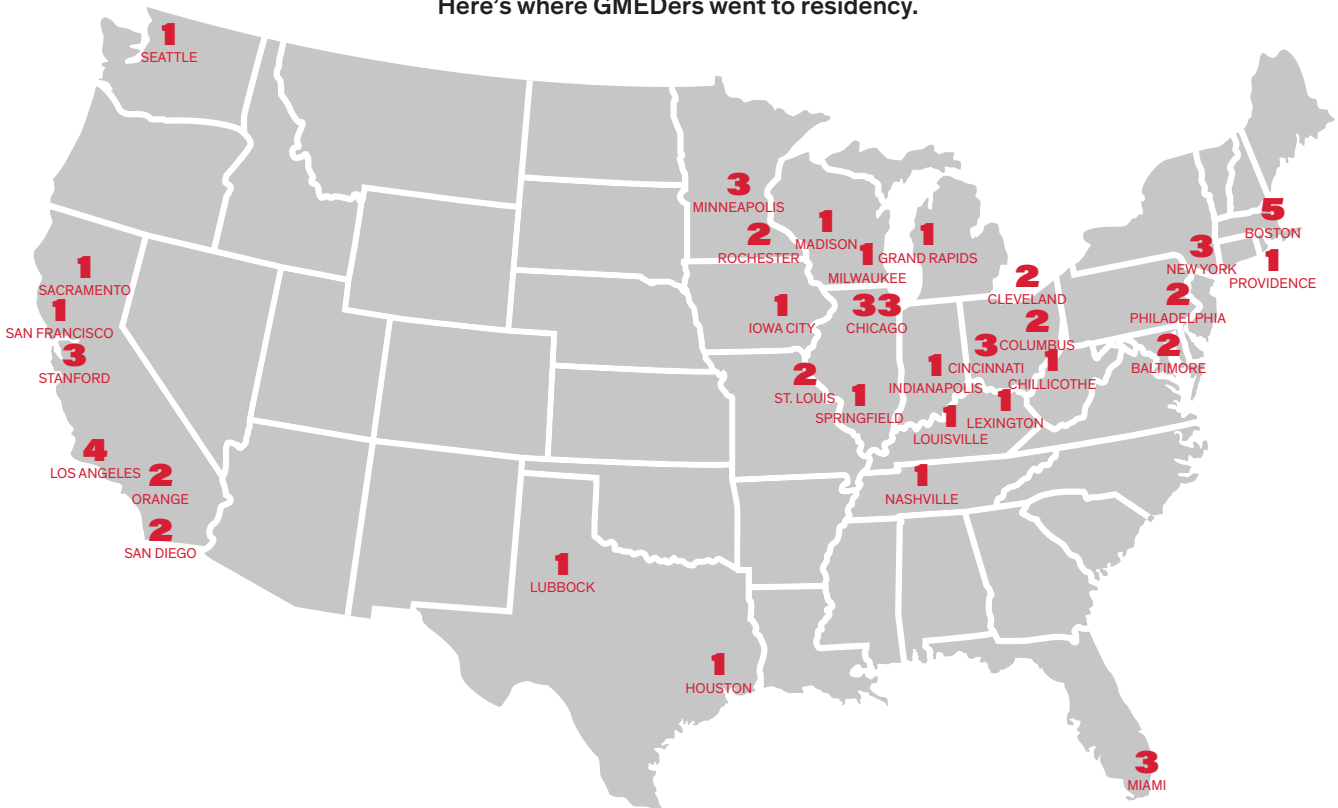
## GMED has graduated 8 classes!

Here's a breakdown of the diverse specialties that GMEDers have pursued.



- |   |  |                                      |   |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| ■ Anesthesiology (1)                    | ■ Internal Medicine/<br>Emergency Medicine (2) | ■ Orthopedic Surgery (2)             | ■ Radiology—Diagnostic (1)                    |
| ■ Emergency Medicine (16)               | ■ Internal Medicine/<br>Pediatrics (6)         | ■ Otolaryngology (4)                 | ■ Surgery (8)                                 |
| ■ Family Medicine (6)                   | ■ OB/GYN (10)                                  | ■ Preventative Medicine (1)          | ■ Physical Medicine<br>and Rehabilitation (1) |
| ■ Internal Medicine (19)                | ■ Ophthalmology (2)                            | ■ Psychiatry/<br>Family Medicine (2) | ■ Child and Adolescent<br>Psychiatry (1)      |
| ■ Internal Medicine/<br>Dermatology (1) |  |                                      |   |

## Here's where GMEDers went to residency.



**Molly MacInnes Perri** (2020) was the Resident Abstract Winner at the American Society of Addiction Medicine and is also serving as Chief Resident for the UChicago Med/Ped Program

**Sumana Vardhan** (2019) just started a cardiology fellowship at Washington University St. Louis.

**Kim Helseth** (2017) matched to a breast oncology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University starting in 2024.

**Bing Li** (2018) randomly met up with former GMED Director, **Valerie Dobiesz**, while working on a summer youth healthcare career pathway program with Native American students on a reservation in Arizona.



*Bing and Valerie in Arizona.*

**Greg Klazura** (2019) is a 4th year general surgery resident.

**Sarah Garvey** (2020) completed 3 years of residency at USC and will be starting as an attending in general IM at UCLA Ronald Reagan/Santa Monica Hospitals.

**Tosha Becerra Songolo** (2018) started a new position as Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at UC San Diego. She is also in her Department's Division of Global Health and Policy and has ongoing projects with the Maputo Central Hospital in Maputo, Mozambique.

**Paul Blessing** (2018) is a Global Health Fellow in Emergency Medicine at UIC.

**Pat Lanter** (2017) is in his third year of a combined Ultrasound and Global Emergency Medicine Fellowship.

**Michael Dienstbach** (2018) is a combined Med/Peds hospitalist at Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

**Aaron Case** (2016) is continuing his Fellowship at Johns Hopkins in Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine and is planning on obtaining a Masters in Health Science in Clinical Investigation. He recently had two poster abstracts accepted at the International American Thoracic Society: "Heterogeneity of Intermediate Care Units Within a Large Tertiary Academic Hospital System" and "Implementing Best Practices for Covid-19 Moderate to

Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) In an Intermediate Care Unit Turned to Intensive Care Unit."

**Taka Yamaguchi** (2018) is 2 years into attendinghood and notes "It is great to have some stability in my career, and to get my life back!"

**Giancarlo Saldana** (2019) is currently in a cardiology fellowship in Chicago.

**Camila Castellanos** (2019) is an urgent care attending in CityMD, the largest urgent care network in NYC.

**Gina Lee Choi** (2020) is currently in an Academic Career Fellowship at UIC.

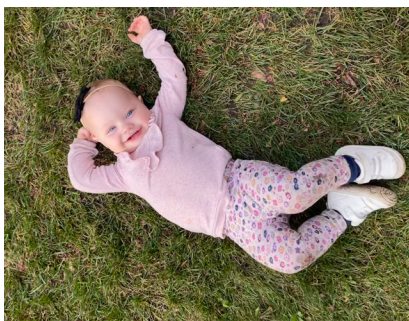
**Miracle Diala** (2023) is in his first year of residency at Medical College of Wisconsin in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

**Flavius Beca** (2020) is completing his ophthalmology fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami and is currently applying for retina fellowships. He reports being fully fluent in ophthalmology Spanish after working several years in Miami!

**Sumana Vardhan** (2019) is a cardiology fellow in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Diana Rapolti** (2023) is a resident in general surgery in Springfield, IL. She is co-author of the surgery chapter of First Aid CPR for Step 2 which will be published in the coming months!

## ALUMNI UPDATES: PERSONAL



**Molly MacInnes Perri (2020)** gave birth to her second baby, Frances Esther Perri.



**Peter Wickwire (2016)** is still married to Cait Wickwire and they have 2 children, Gideon (7) and Elisha (5).



**Greg Klazura (2018)** welcomed baby number two in February, Cal Klazura!.

**Taka Yamaguchi (2018)** and his partner, who he met when he was at UIC and they were in Boston, are 6 years in and going strong!



**Sarah Garvey (2020)** got engaged, (and counter proposed) to her partner of 7 years, after surviving 4 years of long distance during medical school and 3 years of pandemic residency together! She finally got to travel after residency and visited France and Switzerland.



**Tosha Songolo's (2018)** daughter Nova turned 1 on April 28th!

**Pat Lanter (2017)** got married last September and is applying for adult jobs so will be moving to a new job, possibly city, in a year or so.

**Giancarlo Saldana (2019)** is married!



**Michael Dienstbach (2018)** got married in 2022!



**Gina Lee Choi (2020)** got married in April of 2020 and is expecting her first child, a baby girl due in November!



**Katherine Reifler (2018)** got married to Darin Kurti in June in Chicago!





## PAUL BLESSING

was in the second GMED class starting in 2013. He took a gap year during medical school to work with the African Federation of Emergency Medicine in South Africa and graduated in 2018. After medical school, he completed a five-year combined internal medicine/emergency medicine residency here at UIC! During that time, he started MPH coursework at UIC, and in July 2023, he joined UIC's Global Emergency Medicine Fellowship! As a fellow so far, he has continued his MPH, received training in complex

humanitarian emergencies, and traveled to Rwanda to assist with medical student training.

He reports "In August, I was lucky enough to travel to Kigali, Rwanda and work with medical students from the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE). UGHE was started by Paul Farmer and Partners and Health. It is still relatively young, and in May 2024 they will graduate their first class of medical students! Our group was tasked with running the Emergency Medicine clinical elective for their inaugural graduating class. We spent a week on the UGHE

campus with the students where we had an EM Bootcamp. This consisted of various lectures, small group discussions, ultrasound demonstrations and simulation cases. The students were incredible! It's clear that UGHE is doing something right; all of these students will be excellent physicians in any field that they choose! I also could not recommend traveling to Kigali enough. The experience was somehow better than the coffee, which was phenomenal. I cannot wait for October because I will be heading back to Kigali to work with another group of UGHE students!"

## STAY CONNECTED AND GIVE BACK!



*Alumni from Class of 2018 at our 10-year anniversary event.*

GMED needs your help! As a student, many of you may have benefitted from funds that supported you for expenses related to your capstone projects. Those funds were made possible by generous donors who were inspired by GMED students and believed in you. Those funds are about to run out, and it's time for the next generation to step up. Please make a tax-deductible donation in any amount to support the GMED students. Scan the QR code and select "GMED fund" for your gift. Thank you!



It was great to see so many of you in person and virtually at our 10-year GMED Alumni Event last fall! We are planning more annual virtual events to provide opportunities for students to connect with alumni and look forward to your participation!

### HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:



Send updates to Jeanne or Dr. Chamberlain!



Let us know if you have a global health project that would be a good opportunity for a GMED student!



Reach out if you'd like to be a guest speaker for CGH or GMED on your global health work!



Join our monthly global health colloquia (and other events) on Zoom. You can find upcoming events at: [chicago.medicine.uic.edu/departments/centers/center-for-global-health/events/](https://chicago.medicine.uic.edu/departments/centers/center-for-global-health/events/)



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