

THE MEDICAL SCIENTIST

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Calendar:

Monday, April 22, 11:30-1:30,
303 CSN — Grand Rounds
Clinical Presentation: Uzoagu Okonkwo, M4

Research Presentation: Alex Ticho, G4 & and Chris Manzella, G4

Tuesday, May 3, 11:30-1:30,
303 CSN — Grand Rounds
Clinical Presentation: Erin Shanker, M4

Research Presentation: Alan Tseng, G5 and Alan Perez-Rathke, G5

Thursday, May 9, 6:00 PM,
Graduation Banquet,
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 25 S. Halsted St.

Friday, May 10, 2:00 pm
COM Graduation
UIC Pavilion— Credit Union 1 Arena

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 GRADUATES



Michael Marshall

BA, Biological Sciences and Economics, Northwestern University, 2010
PhD, Graduate Program in Neuroscience; Advisor: Ernesto Bongarzone, PhD
PhD Thesis: "New Pathogenic Mechanisms in Krabbe Disease and Their Correction via Adeno-Associated Virus Gene Therapy"

Residency: Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital

Uzoagu Okonkwo

BS, Biochemistry, San Diego State University, 2009

PhD, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology;

Advisor: Luisa A. DiPietro, DDS, PhD

PhD Thesis: "Vascular Function in Diabetic Wound Healing"

Residency: Internal Medicine, Tripler Army Medical in Honolulu, HI



Erin Beisner Shanker

BA, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Rice University, 2010

PhD, Dept. of Medicinal Chem. & Pharmacog; Advisor: Michael Federle, PhD

PhD Thesis: "Molecular and genetic determinants governing cell killing & competence in *Streptococcus mutans*"

Residency: Internal Medicine, UIC Hospital

Andrew Widmer

BA, Psychology, Carlton College, 2009

PhD, Graduate Program in Neuroscience; Advisor: John Larson, PhD

PhD Thesis: "Inhibitory Function in the Olfactory Cortex of a Mouse Model of Fragile X Syndrome"

Residency: Pediatric Neurology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital



Reid Wilkening

BS, Biology and History, Swarthmore University, 2010

PhD, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology; Advisor: Michael Federle, PhD

PhD Thesis: "Mechanistic and physiological regulation of Rgg2/3 quorum sensing in *Streptococcus pyogenes*"

Residency: Pediatrics, University of Colorado

Yu (Jenny) Zheng

BA, Molecular & Cell Biology, University of California-Berkeley, 2009

PhD, Dept. of Biochemistry-Molecular Genetics; Advisor: Bradley Merrill, PhD

PhD Thesis: "The role of the Gsk3 inhibition-Tcf711 axis in facilitating exit from naïve Pluripotency"

Residency: Psychiatry, Northwestern University



Save the Date:
2019 RETREAT
July 10
Starved Rock Resort

Awards, Honors, Presentations – Congratulations!

COM Graduation Awards

These awards will be presented at COM Commencement on May 10.

Michael Marshall, M4 — 2019 Michael and Kate Bárány Research Award. This honor includes an award prize of \$1000 and a plaque.

Reid Wilkening, M4 & Jenny Zhang, M4 — UIC Dr. Edward P. Cohen Medical Scientist Training Award

College of Medicine Research Forum 2018

Graduate Student and MD-PhD Student Competition

First Place Winner: Allison Kirchner, G2 (Neurology)

Title: “DUSP4: An endogenous antiepileptogenic inhibitor of MAP Kinase signaling”

Co-Authors: Shruti Bagla, Fabien Dachet, Jeffrey Loeb

Second Place Winner: Joseph Geraghty, G3 (Neurology)

Title: “Neuroimmune implications for longterm electrographic and behavioral abnormalities seen after subarachnoid hemorrhage”

Co-Authors: Alexander Tate, Biswajit Maharathi, Fernando Testai, Jeffrey Loeb

Honorable Mentions:

Alexander Terry, G3 (Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics) **Matthew Kleinjan, G2** (Physiology and Biophysics)

Alexander Ticho, G4 (Physiology and Biophysics)

Tiffani Berkel, M3 (Psychiatry)

GEMS Research Symposium, Tuesday, December 4, 2018—Poster Winners:

Session 1: **Allison Kirchner, G2**

Session 2: **Alexander Terry, G2**

Student Fellowship Awards:

Trevor Leonardo, G2—F31 was funded

Jane Ivakhnitskaia, G3—F30 was funded

Other Awards:

Tiffany Berkel, M3— Scaife Medical Student Fellowship in Substance Use Disorders (Autum 2018)

Joseph Geraghty, G3—2nd Place Winner, PhD and MD/PhD Student Category, at UICOM Research Day (November 2018), and UIC Chancellor's Student Service and Leadership Award (April 2019)

Evan Kyzar, M3 —October 3, 2018 Edward P. Cohen Award of the MSTP Alumni Association

Alan Perez-Rathke, G5—April 11, 2019—The *Biophysical Journal* Award for Outstanding Poster by a student at the recent meeting “Multiscale Modeling of Chromatin: Bridging Experiment with Theory” in Les Houches, France. His poster, *Many-Body Chromatin Interations in Super-Enhancer Tads*, was recognized both for his research and for the presentation of the work. The award will be announced on both the *Biophysical Journal* and the Biophysical Society websites, in the BPS Member Update, and in a press release.

Photos of Dr. Tobacman's MSTP Retirement Party on January 7, 2019



**Larry Tobacman, MD,
outgoing MSTP Director,
passing the gavel to
Mark Rosenblatt, MD, PhD,
incoming MSTP Director**

LET THEM EAT CAKE & ENJOY!





Wedding Bells & Baby Booties



Congratulations to:

Spring Davis, M2, who got married on December 30, 2018 to Mark Davis in Miami Lakes, Florida surrounded by close friends and family.



Artemis Gogos, G3, on her marriage October 30, 2018 to Marco Colamonici, a PGY-1 Resident in Internal Medicine at UIC.



Christopher Manzella, G4, on his engagement in December to Mamatha Challa



Erin Beisner Shanker, M4, and husband Jordan Shanker on the birth of their son, Jackson Ruby Shanker, born February 18, 2019, almost three weeks before his March 8 due date. His tired but happy mother (who match at UIC for her forthcoming residency) said: "He weighed 8 lbs 15 oz and measured 22" in length. We are all doing very well! Jackson is a pretty chill guy and likes to eat and sleep, in that order .



Alumni News

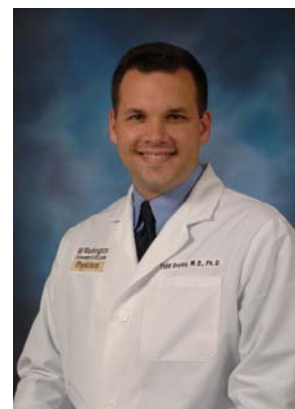
Todd Druley (2002) Earns Honor and Visits MSTP



Congratulations to **Dr. Todd Druley** on being officially inducted into the Society at the ASCI Dinner & New Member Induction Ceremony on April 5, 2019, as part of the 2019 [AAP/ASCI/APSA Joint Meeting](#) (April 5-7) at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park. Todd's current position is Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Developmental Biology and Genetics, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, and Chief Medical Officer for Archer, Inc, a genomics biotechnology company working to improve molecular diagnostics for personalized medicine.

In giving us advance notice about that event, he also mentioned that he would have a prior visit to Chicago on February 21 to give a talk at the University of Chicago. Always intent on keeping in step with UC, we immediately invited him to come early and give a dinner seminar to the UIC MSTP, which he graciously accepted. And so, on Tuesday, February 19, we had the extreme pleasure of hearing him talk on "Improving minimal residual disease detection in cancer through genomics and computational biology." Interwoven in his informative and interesting presentation was a fascinating report of his career path. Upon graduation from UIC in 2002, he joined Washington University as a pediatric resident and has remained; completing his fellowship in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology and joining the faculty in 2008.

This year's visit was a return alumni speaker visit for Todd., following his very well received visit as graduation banquet speaker in 2010. His topic that evening was "If you're one in a million, there are 6,000 people out there just like you."



More Congratulations to:

Phillip David McMullen (2016), a third year resident in Pathology at the University of Chicago, on winning third prize in the annual research competition for residents sponsored by the Chicago Pathology Society. Along with the other winners, David (as his friends call him) presented his work on February 11, 2019 at the monthly meeting of the CPS, held at UIC. His cash-winning presentation was entitled: "Recurrent Pulmonary Infections and the Development of Bronchiolitis Obliterans Syndrome in Lung Transplant Patients: A Single-Center Experience". We are proud not only of this latest achievement for David, but also that he got to come home to his alma mater and represent it to the whole Chicago Pathological Society.

Ryan William Lahey (2016), a third year resident in Internal medicine at McGaw Med. Center of Northwestern University, on matching into a cardiology fellowship at New York Presbyterian Hospital - Columbia University Medical Center, which will commence this summer

Joel Fontanarosa (2013), who also did his residency at Northwestern, but in Otolaryngology, and finished it in 2018, has been a Fellow this year in Head and Neck Surgery at Harvard-Mass General Hospital/Eye and Ear. He is currently in the process of final round interviews for academic physician scientist track jobs starting this summer.

Andrew Czysz (2015), who is finishing his 4th year of residency in Psychiatry at UT Southwestern, will join the faculty there in summer 2019.

Tammy Tamayo (2015), who is finishing her 4th year of residency in Psychiatry at UIC, will join the faculty at the Jesse Brown V.A. summer 2019.

Note to alumni: Please keep the updates on your news coming. If you're going to be in Chicago, please stop by for a visit which can be informal or a formal presentation, as you wish.

In the Alumni Mailbag

From: Ryan William Lahey (2016) <mailto:ryan.lahey@northwestern.edu>

Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 10:39 AM

To: Tobacman, Larry <lst@uic.edu>

Subject: Congratulations on your retirement!

Hi Dr. T,

Congratulations to you on your retirement. I regret that I could not attend the celebration in your honor last week as I was away at a conference. Thank you for your visionary leadership of the MD-PhD program over the years, which through the NIH grant has granted hundreds of aspiring physician-scientists amazing opportunities and career mentorship (myself included). I hope that as your time allows, you will continue to be involved with the program and its students to help usher it into the next phase of success and growth! [Having matched in Cardiology Fellowship at Columbia U] it will be hard to say goodbye to Chicago after having lived here almost a dozen years, but overall I'm looking forward to this important next step in my career. I wish you all the best and thank you again for your years of dedication and leadership! Best regards, Ryan Lahey

From: Joel Fontanarosa (2013) [Joel_Fontanarosa@MEEI.HARVARD.EDU]

Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 4:35 PM

To: Tobacman, Larry <lst@uic.edu>

Subject: RE: Important UIC-MSTP Leadership Announcement

Dr. Tobacman - Congratulations on your retirement!! Now that you are officially retired, I'm not sure if you are still checking your email! I thought I would write you anyway. I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for all of your mentoring, for being an outstanding role model as a clinician scientist, and for everything you have done for the UIC MSTP. Thank you very much for all you have done to help me in my career. Congratulations on your retirement!!

Sincerely, Joel

From: Juliana Choi (2010) <juliana.choi@gmail.com>

Asst. Prof. of Clinical Dermatology, Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, U. Penn.

Sent: Thu 2/7/2019 3:01 PM

Hi Roberta, Thank you so much for the message! I'm so happy to hear Dr. T had a wonderful well-deserved celebration! Of course **Scott [Feldman 2012]** was the mastermind behind the video and how wonderful that everyone liked it! I hope you are doing well and staying warm! (I miss your matzo ball soup!) I don't have many achievements to boast about but I am happily still situated at UPenn and we just had another baby boy (he's the main reason my emails are so belated). Sending love from Philly! Hugs, Julie

From: Ina Han Lee (2014)

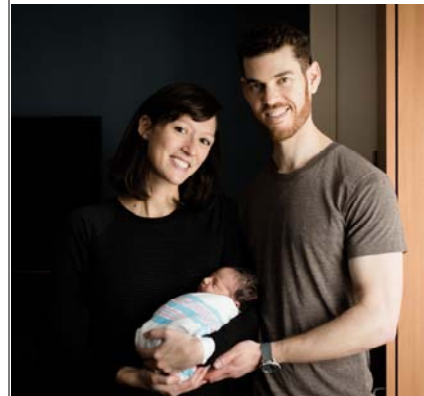
Sent: Thu 2/7/2019 9:04 PM

I'm finishing up my hematopathology fellowship at the University of Maryland Medical Center, and this July our family will be moving to Chapel Hill, NC for one last fellowship in Molecular Genetic Pathology before I finally get a "real" job. It may sound cheesy, but I think these two are my biggest achievements so far. Please feel free to share these pics with Dr. T and the MSTP family. *big hug* Ina



Alumni Babies: Introducing our Future Students

(applications already accepted)



Congratulations to :
Joe Goldenberg (2018) and wife Rebecca Weinschenker Goldenberg on the birth of their son, Zanel Paul, on October 30, 2018. He weighed 6 lbs, 15 oz, and was 19 inches long, and has a full head of thick dark brown hair. Parents and baby are all doing well

Tammy Tamayo (2015) and husband Chris Tamayo on the birth of their 3rd child, in winter 2019.

The MSTP has offered these brilliant babies admission letters for the entering class of 2039.



MSTP FACULTY NEWS

Mark Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, the Director of the MSTP, was named the new Dean of the College of Medicine, effective March 16, 2019. CONGRATULATIONS

Jeffrey Loeb, MD, PhD

On November 9, 2018, Dr. Jeffrey Loeb, the John S. Garvin Endowed Chair in Neurology and Rehabilitation in the COM, was named one of 3 Presidential Fellows by UI President Tim Killean who said that Presidential Fellows "are highly respected scholars who will share their talents on a part-time basis over the next year to help build on our progress in developing the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI). DPI is the cornerstone of a statewide network led by the U of I System to accelerate the breakthrough research discovery and entrepreneurship that drives innovation, job creation and economic growth. Professor Loeb joined UIC in 2013 and is the John S. Garvin Endowed Chair in Neurology, head of the Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation and founder of University of Illinois Neuro Repository in the College of Medicine. An active clinician, he specializes in the evaluation and treatment of epilepsy, and is an expert in quantitative measurements of epileptic electrical activity in the brain to manage patients with hard-to-control seizures. As a Presidential Fellow, Dr. Loeb will work with a healthcare data information platform developed by UIC and industry partners that will enhance discovery by enabling analysis of multiple types of patient information through a single format."

On February 28, 2019, *UIC News* announced that Dr. Loeb was quoted in a Healthline article that reports on his recently-published research on ALS. Loeb and colleagues found that a nerve injury could trigger ALS-like symptoms in an animal model of the disease. "Our results show that a single nerve injury, which is small enough that it only causes temporary weakness in normal animals, can start a cascade of inflammation in the spinal cord that initiates and causes the disease to spread in genetically-susceptible animals," said Loeb. "The ability to precipitate the disease through injury gives us a new animal model we can use to identify treatments for ALS that focus on stopping the spread of the disease after it first starts." Read the article here: <https://bit.ly/2H6tw4o>

Dr. Loeb has welcomed many MSTP students into his lab for training and he is the thesis advisor of current MSTP students:

Joseph Geraghty, G4, and Allison Kirchner, G4.

Mark Rasenick, PhD

UIC News reported that on March 6, 2019, Dr. Mark Rasenick, Distinguished Professor of Physiology & Biophysics and Psychiatry in the UIC College of Medicine, was featured in an NBC 5 News segment in which he was interviewed about ketamine – a drug used as a veterinary anesthesia and also as a club drug, and that was recently approved by the FDA as a treatment for depression. Watch the segment here: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-ketamine-depression-506793311.html> On March 7, 2019, *UIC News* reported that Dr. Rasenick is quoted in an article on the WTTW Chicago Tonight website on the announcement that the FDA will soon approve the drug ketamine to treat depression. "When it gets out to the general public, even though it's supposed to be tightly controlled, who knows what happens and it's a lot easier to put something in your nose than in your veins, Rasenick says in the article. Read the full article here: <https://bit.ly/2TjKsLU>

On March 7, 2019, *UIC News* reported that Dr. Rasenick is quoted in an article on the WTTW Chicago Tonight website: "When it gets out to the general public, even though it's supposed to be tightly controlled, who knows what happens and it's a lot easier to put something in your nose than in your veins," Rasenick says in the article. Read the full article here: <https://bit.ly/2TjKsLU>

And on April 4, in an interview on an ABC News segment, Dr. Rasenick said that ketamine is "revolutionary" in treating depression, but he still has concerns about its potential for abuse and effects of long-term use. Watch the segment here:

<https://abc7chicago.com/health/ketamine-brings-hope-to-depressed-patients-amid-safety-oversight-concerns/5234673/>

Dr. Rasenick has trained numerous MSTP students and served as the thesis advisor of MSTP alumni **Kimberly Chaney (2002), Rahul Dave (2010)** and **Andrew Czysz (2015)**.

Olusola Ajilore, MD, PhD and Alex Leow MD, PhD

On September 14, 2018, *UIC News* reported that **Dr. Olusola Ajilore**, an associate professor of psychiatry and **Dr. Alex Leow**, associate professor of psychiatry and bioengineering at UIC, are quoted in an article in the Wall Street Journal about their app, Bi Affect. The app unobtrusively measures smart phone usage - typing speed, use of spellcheck, frequency of use - to help predict manic and depressive episodes in people with bipolar disorder. Read the full article here: <https://on.wsj.com/2Ptelyd>. Dr. Ajilore currently is the thesis advisor for MSTP student **Paul Thomas (G1)**.

Gail Prins, PhD On November 9, 2018, *UIC News* reported that **Dr. Gail Prins**, the Michael Reese Professor of Urology and Physiology, is quoted in Environmental Health News on the health risks associated with BPA. Prins says research shows that BPA exerts powerful effects on the human body even at very low doses. "This contrasts with what the FDA is claiming that there are only high dose effects and there are not low dose effects," Prins said. Read the article online: <https://bit.ly/2xbjIJE>. Dr. Prins was the thesis advisor of alumnus **Ikenna Madueke (2015)**.

Subhash Pandey, PhD On March 15m 2019, *UIC News* reported that WTTW Chicago Tonight covered recent research by **Dr. Subhash Pandey**, director, UIC Center for Research in Alcohol Epigenetics and professor of psychiatry in the UIC College of Medicine. Pandey found that epigenetic changes caused by early binge drinking had lasting effects on the brain and caused an increased risk for anxiety in adulthood in an animal model. Read the article here: <https://bit.ly/2Cc66aj> Dr. Pandey was the thesis advisor of alumnus **Sachin Moonat (2014)** and is the thesis advisor of current MSTP students **Tiffany Berkel, M3; Evan Kyzar, M3; and Russell Dulman, G2**.

2019 THESIS DEFENSES—CONGRATULATIONS

Laura Rodgers Hardy, G4: Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:00 am, Herman Auditorium, MBRB

Thesis Title: "Investigating the role of PAX8 in high grade serous ovarian cancer "

Department: Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy; Faculty Advisor: Joanna Burdette, PhD

Alexander Ticho, G4: Friday, March 1, 2019, 10:00 am, 1020 COMRB (Moss Auditorium)

Thesis: "S-acylation is crucial for ASBT-mediated bile acid uptake: monitoring the transport activity in real time"

Department of Physiology & Biophysics; Faculty Advisor: Waddah Alrefai, MD

Benjamin Turturice, G4: Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 10:00 am, 7175 COMRB

Thesis Title: "Early Origins of Childhood Asthma: Role of Perinatal Microbial Exposure and Innate Immunity"

Department of Microbiology & Immunology; Faculty Advisor: Patricia Finn, MD

Christopher Manzella, G4: Friday, March 8, 2019, 3:00 pm, 7175 COMRB

Thesis: "Serotonin is an endogenous regulator of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor in the intestine"

Department of Physiology & Biophysics; Faculty Advisor: Ravinder Gill, PhD

Alexander Agelidis, G5: Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 12:00 pm, 4175 COMRB

Thesis Title: "Role of Heparanase in Herpes Simplex Virus Pathogenesis"

Department of Microbiology & Immunology; Faculty Advisor: Deepak Shukla, PhD

Adam Schafer, G4: Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 1:00 pm, 1020 COMRB (Moss Auditorium)

Thesis Title: "Novel Small Molecule Therapeutics and Mechanisms of Action for the Treatment of Filovirus Diseases"

Department of Microbiology & Immunology; Faculty Advisor: Lijun Rong, PhD

Matthew Durst, G5: March 14, 2019, 11:00 am, 106 Herman Auditorium, MBRB

Thesis Title: "Exploring Drug Discovery and Validation Through Three Unique Projects"

Department: Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics; Faculty Advisor: Arnon Lavie, PhD

Matthew MacDougal, G5: April 15, 2019, 12:00 pm, 106 Herman Auditorium, MBRB

Thesis Title: "Elucidating the Genetic Determinants for Exit from the Naïve State of Pluripotency"

Department: Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics; Faculty Advisor: Brad Merrill, PhD

Alexandria Young, G4: April 24, 2019, 11:00 am, 106 Herman Auditorium, MBRB

Thesis Title: "The Pre-clinical Development of Phyllanthusmins for the Treatment of High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer "

Department: Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy; Faculty Advisor: Joanna Burdette, PhD

Alan Tseng, G5 Late May—Date TBD

Thesis Title: "Oxidative Stress Regulates Heterotypic Cell-Cell Interactions in Sterile Inflammation"

Department: Pharmacology; Faculty Advisor: Gus Cho, PhD

Alan Perez-Rathke, G5: May 28, 1:00pm 8175 CMRB

Thesis Title: "Mechanisms of Biological Functions Through Polymer Deep Sampling: Protein Gating and Chromatin Folding"

Department: Bioengineering-Bionformatics; Faculty Advisor: Jie Liang, PhD

Cody Schott, G4: May 30

Thesis Title: "Host-Microbiome Interactions Influence Pulmonary Disease Development"

Department of Microbiology & Immunology; Faculty Advisors Patricia Finn, PhD & David Perkins, MD, PhD

Student Grand Rounds Presentations 2019

Monday, April 22, 303 CSN

Topic: "Pulmonary Embolism in the Complicated Patient"

Clinical Presentation: **Uzoagu Okonkwo, M4**

Research Presentation: **Alex Ticho, G4**

and **Chris Manzella, G4**

Faculty advisor: **Dr. Kolozvary, MD, Internal Medicine, VA**

Tuesday, May 3, 12pm-1pm 303 CSN

Topic: "The Biological & Clinical Factors Shaping the Treatment & Progress of Osteosarcoma"

Clinical Presentation: **Erin Shanker, M4**

Research Presentation: **Alan Tseng, G5**

and **Alan Perez-Rathke, G5**

Faculty advisor: **Mary Lou Schmidt, MD, Chief, Pediatric Hematology & Oncology**

The Medical Scientist

University of Illinois
College of Medicine
COM Dean's Office, MC 784
1853 West Polk Street
Chicago, IL 60612

Phone: 312-996-7473
Fax: 312-413-8221
E-mail: mstp@uic.edu



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MSTP Administration

Mark Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, MBA

Dean, College of Medicine
MSTP Director

Dawood Darbar, MBChB, MD

Professor and Chief
Cardiology, Dept. of Medicine
MSTP Associate Director

Jan K. Kitajewski, PhD

Sweeney Professor of Basic
Sciences and Head, Dept. of
Physiology & Biophysics
MSTP Associate Director

Patricia Finn, MD

Dept. Head & Professor of
Medicine
MSTP Associate Director

Julie Mann, MA

Director, Program
Administration

Roberta Bernstein, MA

Medical Scientist Editor
Chair, Alumni Affairs

The UIC MSTP cordially invites you to its
Graduation Seminar and Banquet

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 25 S. Halsted St.

6:00 pm Reception 6:45 pm Dinner 7:15 pm Seminar

Our Honored Graduates:

Michael Marshall

Andrew Widmer

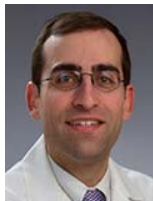
Erin Shanker

Reid Wilkening

Uzoagu Okonkwo

Jenny Zhang

Our Guest Speaker:



David Ramsey MD, PhD, MPH-UIC 2008

Harry N. Lee, PhD, Chair in Innovation, Director of Ophthalmic Research,

Department of Ophthalmology

Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Beth Israel Lahey Health, Boston, MA

Dr. Ramsey was the first triple-degree student to graduate from the College of Medicine. His research seeks to exploit this fundamental aspect of retinal physiology by harnessing light as a treatment regimen for diabetic retinopathy. Ongoing studies in the Lahey Divisions of Ophthalmology are seeking to determine whether this noninvasive intervention can limit the progression of diabetic retinopathy to PDR and/or reduce levels of sight-impairing macular edema. Among his individual accomplishments in innovation is being the first investigator to make direct cellular recordings from retinal neurons from a diabetic retina.

DIRECTORS' CORNER

MSTP Updates from Mark Rosenblatt, Dawood Darbar & Jan Kitajewski

It has been a busy spring for the MSTP. We are enjoying our new roles as leaders of the MSTP and we continue to be amazed and proud of all of our students' accomplishments. Recognizing we have big shoes to fill with the retirement of Dr. Larry Tobacman in January, we have been working hard to continue to build on his legacy with the MSTP.

First off, we want to congratulate our M4 students on their fantastic residency match results! (*see page 1 for details*). All six students received their first choice for their residency program.

We are also excited to share that the NIH just notified us that they have granted us an additional position on our T32 Training Grant. We now have 11 funded positions. The program has been steadily growing and this year we expect to have about 80 total students.

Above all, we are proud to announce that Dr. Patricia Finn has agreed to join the MSTP leadership team as an Associate Director of the MSTP. Dr. Finn is the Earl M. Bane Professor & Chair of the Department of Medicine and the Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives in the College of Medicine. Dr. Finn is the thesis advisor of 5 current MSTP students in the lab she shares with Dr. David Perkins.

Other program administration updates include the work that Dr. Darbar has done to identify physician/clinician-scientist mentors in each department for our trainees. Dr. Darbar has met this spring with each of our later stage PhD students (G3-G5) to discuss career plans and to match each student with a role model physician/clinician-scientist mentors. Student feedback on this new resource has been very positive. Similarly, Dr. Kitajewski has been working to finalize the details and members of a new advising/mentoring committee for the MSTP. The goal is that this committee will provide diverse mentors, with representation from different schools and disciplines. The plan is to roll out this new advising/mentoring structure this spring/early summer.

