

Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program Student Profiles

Marcel G. Brown, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery Physician Scientist Program, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2022

Email: marcebro@wakehealth.edu

Education: MD, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, 2022
BA, Chemistry, Williams College, 2015

Research Mentor: Xue Ma, MD, PhD (Orthopaedics)

Research Interests: Regenerative medicine and applications of amniotic fluid stem cells; Degenerative joint disease; arthroplasty and periprosthetic joint infections; Peripheral nerve injury and repair



Justin Campbell

Second Year PhD Student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: jdcampbe@wakehealth.edu

Education: Bachelor of Science Biology; Minor in Pre-Health;
Winston-Salem State University
Associate in Applied Science; Major in Biotechnology;
Associate in Applied Science; Major in Nanotechnology
Forsyth Technical Community College

Research Mentor: Thomas Shupe, PhD (WFIRM); Frank Marini, PhD (Cancer Biology)

Research Interests: Cell Biology; Virology; Tissue Engineering; Regenerative Medicine



Samuel P. Carmichael II, MD

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2022

Email: scarmich@wakehealth.edu

Education: MD, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, 2013

Research mentor: Anthony Atala, MD (WFIRM)

Research Interests: Shock Resuscitation; Intra-Abdominal Adhesion



Tameka Dean, DO, MS

Orthopedic Physician Scientist Program, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: tamdean@wakehealth.edu

Education: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine, 2021
MS, Biomedical Science, 2021

Research mentor: Xue Ma, PhD (Orthopedics)

Research Interests: Ischemia-reperfusion injury; skeletal muscle physiology



Hope Didier

Second Year PhD Student, 2022-2023

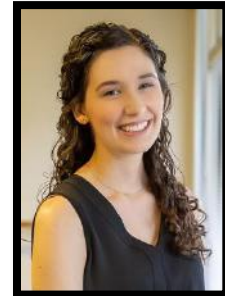
Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: hddier@wakehealth.edu

Education: Kennesaw State University
B.S. Molecular & Cellular Biology, 2021
B.A. Dance, 2021

Research Mentor: Karen Haas, PhD: Microbiology & Immunology

Research Interests: Cancer Immunology; Translational Science; B Lymphocyte Response/Differentiation; Tumor Associated Carbohydrate Antigens; Anti-Tumor Immune Response



Maryssa Ellison

Second Year PhD Student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: maelliso@wakehealth.edu

Education: Bachelor of Science, Biology Major; Molecular Biology & Biotechnology concentration; Palm Beach Atlantic University, 2016

Research mentor: Anthony Atala, MD and Victoria Weis, Ph.D. (Regenerative Medicine)

Research Interests: necrotizing enterocolitis; hPCS therapy; intestinal stem cell niche; paracrine signaling; immunomodulation; pediatrics; translational science; regenerative medicine



Aya Abdel Raouf El-Taibany, MD

Third Year PhD Student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: aeltaiba@wakehealth.edu

Education: MD, School of Medicine, Alexandria University, 2008
Internship, School of Medicine, Alexandria University, 2010
MS, Medical Genetics, Alexandria University, 2016

Research mentor: Michael Seeds, Ph.D. (WFIRM) and Anthony Atala, MD (WFIRM)

Research Interests: Neurodegenerative; Neuroimmunological; Blood brain barrier; Molecular genetics; Drug discovery and translational Research



Lindsey Farris

Forth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2019

Email: lfarris@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS, Biology & Chemistry, Western Carolina University, 2019

Research mentor: Leslie Poole, Ph.D. (Biochemistry)

Research Interests: Cancer therapeutics & translational medicine



Alexandria Harrison

Eighth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2015 (transferred 2017)

Email: alexharr@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS, Biology, Winston-Salem State University, 2014

Research mentor: Donald McClain, MD, PhD (Endocrinology & Metabolism)

Research Interests: Diabetes; Obesity; Metabolism; Dietary iron; Hypoxia



Brendan Johnson, DVM

Forth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: bjjohnson@wakehealth.edu

Education: DVM, University of Missouri, 2018

Research mentor: Mark Cline, DVM, PhD (Pathology, Comparative Medicine)

Research Interests: Comparative Medicine; Cancer Biology; Radiation Oncology; Cognition and Memory



Sudarshan Krishnamurthy

Third year MD/PhD dual degree program, 2022- 2023

Year Matriculated: MD 2020, PhD 2022

Email: sukrishn@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS Biomedical Sciences, University of South Florida, 2019

Research mentor: Dr. Samuel Lockhart (IM - Gerontology) and Dr. Trey Bateman

Research Interests: Aging; Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; Cardiometabolic Index; Social Deprivation; Health disparities; Health equity



Caroline Kuczynski

Forth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

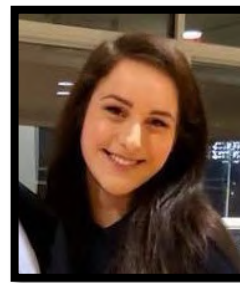
Year Matriculated: 2019

Email: ckuczyns@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS, Biophysics with Honors, Wake Forest University, 2018

Research mentor: Graça Almeida-Porada, MD, PhD (WFIRM)

Research Interests: Genetic Hematologic Disorders (particularly sickle cell anemia and other hemoglobinopathies); Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV)-based gene therapy; prenatal gene therapy; and Molecular Dynamics (MD) Simulations.



Hannah Lamond

Second Year PhD Student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: hlamond@wakehealth.edu

Education:

Bachelors of Science; Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Major; Writing Minor
Loyola University Maryland, 2020

Research Mentor: Dr. Ellie Rahbar, PhD (Biomedical Engineering)

Research Interests: Inflammation; Immunology; Liver; Polyunsaturated; Fatty acids



Kendall Langsten, DVM

Forth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: klangste@wakehealth.edu

Education: DVM, University of Missouri, 2017
MS in Biomedical Sciences, University of Missouri, 2017
Residency in Anatomic Pathology, University of Minnesota, 2020

Research mentor: Bethany Kerr, Ph.D. (Cancer Biology)

Research Interests: Cancer Biology; Pathophysiology



Daniel Lara, MD

Orthopedic Physician Scientist Program, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2017

Email: dlara@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS, University of Notre Dame, 2011
MD, Creighton University School of Medicine, 2016

Research mentor: Thomas Smith, PhD (Orthopaedic Surgery)

Research Interests: Neuromuscular Junction/Peripheral Nerve Trauma and Regeneration



Sumaiya Nazli

Sixth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2017

Email: snazli@wakehealth.edu

Education: Bachelors of Science Biology Major, Math Minor, Salem College, 2015

Research mentor: Michael Olivier, PhD (Molecular Medicine)

Research Interests: Plasma Proteomics; Mass Spectrometry; Plasma Biomarkers for Biological Disease



Emma Parsons

Third Year PhD Student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: ecparson@wakehealth.edu

Education: B.A. Biology and Sociology, minor in Chemistry, Wake Forest University, 2018

Research mentor: Anthony Atala, MD

Research Interests: Immunology, Translational Science; Osteoarthritis; Immunomodulatory Cell-based treatment; Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms



Chirayu Patel

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: cpatel@wakehealth.edu

Education: M.S. Cancer Biology, Wake Forest
B.S. Cell and Molecular Biology, Appalachian State

Research mentor: Jeff Willey, PhD (Radiology Biology)

Research Interests: The study of pharmaceutical countermeasures and artificial gravity as preventative measures of spaceflight induced musculoskeletal degradation on the International Space Station. The development and use of hardware to test interplanetary travel mission conditions at the NASA Space Radiation Lab.



Patrick Ralph

Third Year MD/PhD dual degree student, 2022-2023

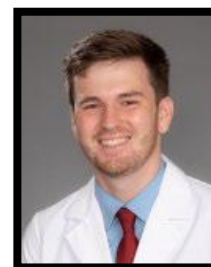
Year Matriculated: MD 2019, PhD 2021

Email: pralph@wakehealth.edu

Education: B.S. Biology, William Peace University

Research mentor: Sang Jin Lee, PhD (WFIRM)

Research Interests: Tissue engineering; Model development; Neurobiology; Regenerative medicine; Neurodegeneration; Behavioral neurology; Neuropsychiatry



Kaitlyn Reno

Second year PhD student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: kreno@wakehealth.edu

Education: B.S. Biology, Chemistry Minor, Virginia Tech, 2021

Research mentor: Jeff Willey, PhD (Radiation Oncology)

Research Interests: Identifying novel biomarkers of bone damage due to radiation therapy; Radiation Oncology; Identifying biomarkers of progressive fibrosis and pneumonitis in NSCLC



Mackenzie Fitzpatrick

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: mackrobe@wakehealth.edu

Education: B.S. Neuroscience, Duke University, 2019

Research mentor: Leah Solberg Woods, PhD (Molecular Medicine)

Research Interests: Genetics; Translational Science; Obesity; Diabetes



William Shane Sills, DVM

Fifth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2019

Email: wsills@wakehealth.edu

Education:

BS, Zoology, NC State University; DVM, NC State University
Residency, Anatomic Pathology, Cornell University

Research mentor: Mark Cline, DVM, PhD, DACVP (Pathology-Comparative Medicine)

Research Interests: Immunology and pathology; Immune response to tumors and cancer immunotherapy; Cancer genetics and genomics; Long-term effects of radiation



Maggie Smith

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: margsmit@wakehealth.edu

Education: B.S. Biology, Appalachian State University, 2018

Research mentor: Fei Xing, PhD (Cancer Biology)

Research Interests: Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors, NSCLC, Cancer Genomics, Genomic Mutation, and Tumor Microenvironment



Alexandria Szalanczy

Fifth Year PhD Candidate, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2018

Email: aszalanc@wakehealth.edu

Education: Centre College, B.S. Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Research mentor: Leah Solberg Woods, PhD (Molecular Medicine)

Research Interests: Genetics; Obesity; Stress; Rodent Models



Yuezhu Wang

Second year PhD Student, 2022-2023

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: yuewang@wakehealth.edu

Education: Master of Science in Genomic and Bioinformatics, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2019; Bachelor of Medicine, Soochow University, 2018

Research Mentor: Fei Xing, PhD (Cancer Biology)

Research interests: Tumor Immunotherapy, Cancer genomics, Genetic mutation

