

Molecular Medicine and Translational Science
Graduate Program Student Profiles

Salomat Abdulkhuseynova, MD

Second Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: sabdulkh@wakehealth.edu

Education: MD, Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, 2017
Medical Residency, N.N.Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center, 2019

Research Mentor: Shay Soker, PhD

Research Interest: Cancer biology; Cancer immunology; Immune response;
Cancer treatment; Tumor organoids; Translational science



Marcel G. Brown, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery Physician Scientist Program, 2023-2024

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

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2022

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

Fourth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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

**Molecular Medicine and
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Tameka Dean, DO, MS

Orthopaedic Physician Scientist Program, 2023-2024

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

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: hdidier@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

**Molecular Medicine and
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Graduate Program Student
Profiles**

Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program Student Profiles



Maryssa Ellison

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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

Fourth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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

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Graduate Program
Student Profiles



Lindsey Farris

Fifth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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

Yosuri Fernandez Figuereo

Second Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

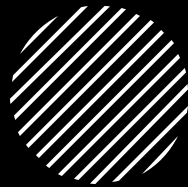
Year Matriculated: 2023

Email: yfernan@wakehealth.edu

Education: Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Environmental Management; Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra-PUCMM; Associate in Applied Science; Biotechnology; Forsyth Technical Community College

Research Mentor: Stephen J. Walker, PhD (WFIRM)

Research Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Intestinal stem cells; Intestinal organoids; Blood-brain barrier; Genetics and genomics; Immunology



Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program
Student Profiles

Mackenzie Fitzpatrick

Fourth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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



Brendan Johnson, DVM

Fourth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: bjjohnson@wakehealth.edu

Education: DVM, University of Missouri, 2018

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

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





Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program Student Profiles



Caroline Kuczynski

Fifth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2022


Email: hlamond@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS; Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Major; Writing Minor, Loyola University Maryland, 2020

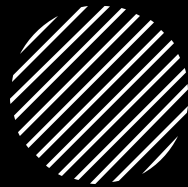
Research mentor: Dr. Ellie Rahbar, PhD (Biomedical Engineering)

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





**Molecular Medicine
and Translational
Science Graduate
Program Student
Profiles**



Sarah D. Kaye

Third Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2019

Email: sdkaye@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology, UC Santa Cruz

Research Mentor: Dr. Pooja Jadiya, PhD

Research Interest: Mitochondrial calcium signaling; Extracellular vesicles; Biomarkers; Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

Sudarshan Krishnamurthy

Third Year MD/PhD Dual Degree Candidate, 2023-2024

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



**Molecular Medicine
and Translational Science Graduate
Program Student Profiles**

Kendall Langsten, DVM

Fifth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

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

Orthopaedic Physician Scientist Program, 2023-2024

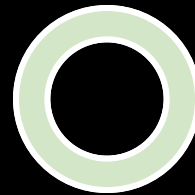
Year Matriculated: 2017

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



Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program Student Profiles



Alexis Elizabeth Morse

Second Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2023

Email: aemorse@wakehealth.edu

Education: Master of Science Biomedical Science; Concentration in Cancer Biology; Wake Forest University; Bachelor of Science Chemistry; Minors in Biology and Mathematics; Wingate University

Research Mentor: Karen Haas, PhD

Research Interests: Microbiology and Immunology, Immune Responses to Vaccines, Vaccinology

Ayobami S. Ogunsola, MD

Second Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2023

Email: aogunsol@wakehealth.edu

Education: Medical degree (MB; BS) - University of Ibadan, 2015;

Master of Public Health (MPH) - Texas A&M University, 2021

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

Research Interests: Clinical outcome, mortality epidemiology, and RNA sequencing and Transcriptomics





Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program Student Profiles



Emma Parsons

Fourth Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2020

Email: eparson@wakehealth.edu

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

Research Mentor: Anthony Atala, MD

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



Chirayu Patel

Fourth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2020


Email: cpatel@wakehealth.edu

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

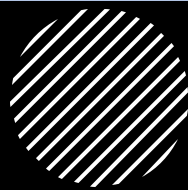
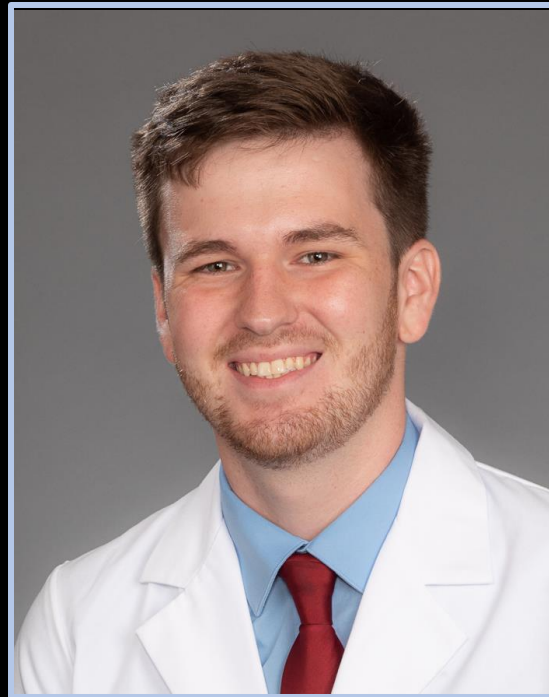
Research Mentor: Jeff Willey, PhD (Radiology Biology)

Research Interest: 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.





**Molecular Medicine
and Translational
Science Graduate
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Patrick Ralph

Fourth Year MD/PhD Dual Degree Candidate, 2023-2024

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

Kaitlyn Reno

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2021

Email: kreno@wakehealth.edu

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

Research Mentor: Jeff Willey, PhD

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



Gemma Nomdedeu-Sancho

Second Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2022

Email: gnomdede@wakehealth.edu

Education: B.S in Human Biology from Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), 2020; MS in Biomedical Research from Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), 2021

Research Mentor: Shay Soker, Ph.D. and Anthony Atala, MD

Research Interests: Skin biology, in-vitro 3D models, organoids, melanoma, regenerative medicine



Maggie Smith

Fourth Year PhD Candidate, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2020

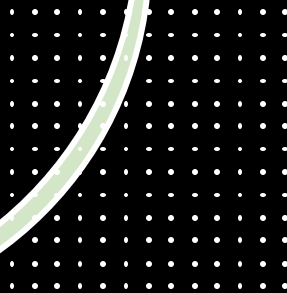
Email: margsmi@wakehealth.edu

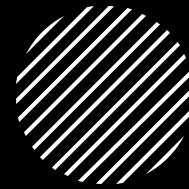
Education: B.S. Biology, Appalachian State University, 2018

Research Mentor: Fei Xing, PhD (Cancer Biology)

Research Interest: NSCLC, Immuno-oncology, Cancer Genomics, and Tumor Microenvironment

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Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate Program Student Profiles

Christina Stevens, DVM

Second Year PhD student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2023

Email: chmsteve@wakehealth.edu

Education: BA, Biological Sciences, Barnard College, 2018; DVM, Colorado State University, 2022

Research Mentor: Kylie Kavanagh, DVM, MS, MPH (Pathology, Comparative Medicine)

Research Interest: Adipose; Aging; Digital pathology; Microbial translocation; Microbiome

Vy H. Voung

Second Year PhD student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2023

Email: vvuong@wakehealth.edu

Education: BA, Cell & Molecular Biology, Barnard College, 2019

Research Mentor: Patrick McNutt, Ph.D. (WFIRM)

Research Interest: Ocular Toxicity, Vapor Exposure, Injury & Wound Healing

**Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Graduate
Program Student Profiles**

Yuezhu Wang

Third Year PhD Candidate, 2023- 2024

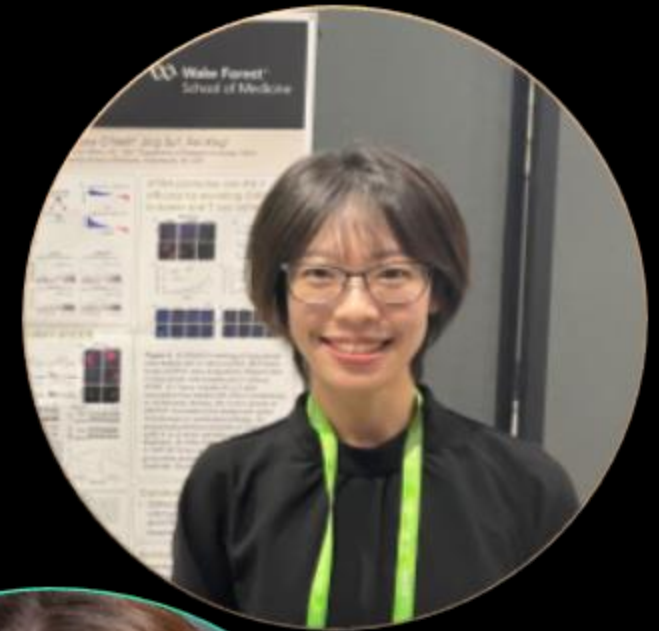
Year Matriculated: 2022

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



Sarah Wachtman

Second Year PhD Student, 2023-2024

Year Matriculated: 2023

Email: swachtma@wakehealth.edu

Education: BS, Biology, Florida State University, 2022

Research Mentor: Graça Almeida-Porada, MD, PhD (WFIRM) and Christopher Porada, PhD (WFIRM)

Research Interests: Stem cell and gene therapy; molecular genetics; Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV)-based therapeutics for Hemophilia A

