

TL1 Alumni

2024



Daniel Bonthius, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Hai Yao, MD/PhD

Research Project: Analysis of the Rib Construct for Treatment of Early Onset Spinal Deformity with Hypokyphosis

Current Position: Co-Chief Executive Office, Apex Orthopedic Technologies

2024



Catherine Bridges Adams, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Christopher W. Cowan, PhD

Research Project: Microglial Contributions to MEF2C Haploinsufficiency Syndrome

2024



Jasmine Cash, PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Chris M. Gregory, PhD, PT

Research Project: Characterizing Lower Extremity Neurophysiologic Responses to Sensory Augmentation After Stroke

Current Position: Adjunct Instructor, Southeastern College

2024



Amelia Furbish, PhD/PharmD

College of Graduate Studies/College of Pharmacy

Mentor: Patrick M. Woster, PhD

Research Project: Small Molecule Inhibitors of Spermine Oxidase and Implications for Neuronal Injury

2024



Alyssa Risner, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Antonis Kourtidis, PhD

Research Project: Cadherin Complexes Recruit PIWI to Suppress Transposons and Pro-Tumorigenic Transformation

Current Position: Graduate Research Student, Medical University of South Carolina

2023



Christine (Couch) Kestner, PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Stephen Tomlinson, PhD

Research Project: Effect of Age and Smoking on Outcomes After Stroke and Anti-Inflammatory Therapies

Current Position: Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Cell & Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics at Medical University of South Carolina

2022



Carter Allen, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Dongjun Chung, PhD

Research Project: Investigation of systemic sclerosis pathways using a novel data integration approach and the stochastic block model

Current Position: Research Scientist, Eli Lilly and Company

2022



John Delgaizo, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Alexander Alekseyenko, PhD

Research Project: Preventing Surgical Errors before They Occur, Steps Toward an Automated Alert System

Current Position: AI Researcher Biomedical Data Science and Informatics, Medical University Of South Carolina

2022



Daniel Baer, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Andrew Lawson, PhD

Research Project: Mild Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer's Disease: Progression in Brain Function and Etiological Links

Current Position: Senior Scientist, Department of Biostatistics at Merck

2022



Stephanie Jones, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Linda Kelemen, PhD

Research Project: Understanding Nicotine Dependence and Smoking Cessation Failure: The Role of Genetic Variation

Current Position: Assistant Professor Public Health, Baylor University

2022



Mary C. Bridges, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Antonis Kourtidis, PhD

Research Project: The Adherens Junctions Suppress Pro-Tumorigenic Colon Cell Transformation Via Long Non-Coding RNAs

Current Position: Medical Science Liaison, GI Oncology at Natera, Inc.

2022



Danira (Karzic) Medunjanin, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Kelly Hunt, PhD

Research Project: Survival and Healthcare Patterns of Elderly Veterans with Advanced CKD

Current Position: Health Services Researcher, Ralph H Johnson VA Medical Center

2022



Corey Morrow, PhD, MOT, OTR/L

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Kit Simpson, PhD

Research Project: Translate emerging upper extremity rehab technology from clinical trials to rehabilitation therapy practice

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Health Professions at Medical University of South Carolina

2021



Charlies Reese, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Stanley Hoffman, PhD

Research Project: Monocyte/Fibrocyte Lineage in Fibrotic Disease: Universal and Tissue-Specific Features

Current Position: Postdoctoral Scholar, at Medical University of South Carolina

2022



Johnathan Turner, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Christopher Davies, PhD

Research Project: Design of Novel Penicillin Binding Protein 2 (PBP2) Inhibitors as Drug Candidates for Penicillin- and Cephalosporin-Resistant Neisseria gonorrhoeae

Current Position: Resident Physician, Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital

2021



Amanda Vatinno, PhD, OTR/L

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Na Jin Seo, PhD

Research Project: Prognostic Utility of EEG in Post-Stroke Upper Extremity Motor Recovery

Current Position: Associate Manager, Medical Devices, Global Regulatory Writing & Consulting (GLOBAL)

2021



John Barrows, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: David Long, PhD

Research Project: Personalized Therapy for BRCA 1-mutant Tumors

Current Position: Postdoctoral Researcher, Kennesaw State University

2020



David Bastian, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Xue-Zhong, MD

Research Project: Targeting JAK2 to Control T-Cell Alloreactivity and Graft-versus-Host Disease

Current Position: Director of Marketing, Nephron Nitrile

2020



Alyson Black, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Anand Mehta, PhD

Research Project: High-Throughput Glycoprotein Biomarker Discovery by MALDI Mass Spectrometry Imaging of Antibody Arrays for Serum Biomarkers of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Current Position: Senior Application Scientist, HTX Imaging Technologies, LLC

2020



Xinh-Xinh Nguyen, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD

Research Project: The Role of Lysyl Oxidase in Systemic Sclerosis

Current Position: Translational Science Interagency Fellow at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

2020



Ravyn Duncan, PhD, MB(ASCP)

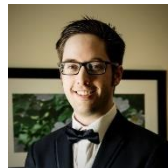
College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Nathan Dolloff, PhD

Research Project: Enhancing Anti-myeloma T Cell Activity by Inhibiting FOXP3 Function

Current Position: VP of Scientific Operations and Research, Molecular Pathology Laboratory Network

2020



Steven Schutt, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Xue-Zhong Yu, MD

Research Project: Identifying the Role and Immunobiological Mechanisms of Fli-1 Mediated Pathogenicity in Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease

Current Position: Postdoctoral Researcher, National Cancer Institute

2020



David Hartmann, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Andy Shih, PhD

Research Project: A Potential New Role for Pericytes in Functional Hyperemia

Current Position: Resident, Neurology & Neurological Sciences at Stanford University

2019



Raymond Boaz, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Andrew Lawson, PhD

Research Project: Multivariate Air Pollutant Exposure Prediction and Characterization

Current Position: Senior Director of Data Sciences, FreightWaves

2019



Myroslawa Happe, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Maria Ann Westerink, MD

Research Project: Age-related Changes in B-cells Impact Immune Responses to Pneumococcal Vaccination in Aging HIV+ Individuals

Current Position: Scientific Advisor, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

2019



Daniel Lench, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Colleen Hanlon, PhD

Research Project: Interaction of Depression and Sensorimotor Function: A Study Comparing Healthy Individuals and Chronic Stroke Patients

Current Position: Postdoctoral Researcher, Neurology at Medical University of South Carolina

2019



Daniel Herr, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Donald Menick, PhD

Research Project: Elucidating the Effects of Class I and II HDACs on GATA4 Regulation in Heart Failure

Current Position: Resident, Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

2019



Brian Riesenberg, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Yi Yang, PhD

Research Project: Role of Platelets in Dampening Antitumor Immunity

Current Position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

2019



Serena-Kaye Kinley-Cooper, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Deanna Adkins, PhD

Research Project: Enhancing Motor Recovery Following MCAo in Aged Rats

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Biology at College of Charleston

2019



Halley Rycenga, PhD

College of Graduation Studies

Mentor: David Long, PhD

Research Project: The Role of p97 in DNA Crosslink Repair

Current Position: Medical Science Liaison, Immunology/Rare Disease at Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.

2019



Danielle Stevens, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Kelly Hunt, PhD

Research Project: Prenatal and Early Life Exposures and Subsequent Cardiometabolic Risk

Current Position: IRTA Postdoctoral Fellow, Epidemiology National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

2019



Erik Strungs, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Louis Luttrell, MD/PhD

Research Project: Monitoring arrestin-mediated signaling with intramolecular BRET probes

Current Position: Resident, General Surgery, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019



Caroline Vrana-Diaz, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Jeffrey Korte, PhD

Research Project: Gender Equity and HIV Self-testing in Kenya and Uganda

Current Position: Research Project Coordinator, Foundation for Prader-Willi Research

2019



Carly Bess Scalise, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Elizabeth Yeh, PhD

Research Project: The Regulation of c-Casitas B-Lineage Lymphoma (c-Cbl) by Hormonally Up-regulated Neu-associated Kinase (HUNK) in Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Degradation in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)

Current Position: Scientist, Translational Medicine at Natera, Inc.

2018



Danielle Desjardins, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Zsolt Ablonczy, PhD

Research Project: Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Degenerative Pathologies

Current Position: Resident, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University

2018



Carolina Wallace, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Zihai Li, MD/PhD

Research Project: The Role of TGFB in B-Cell Biology and Autoimmunity

Current Position: Freelance Scientific Writer, Essentially Science, LLC

2018



Russell Glenn, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Jens Jensen, PhD

Research Project: Assessment of Ischemic Stroke with Advanced Diffusion Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Current Position: **Neuroradiology Fellow, Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine**

2018



Jennifer Hunnicutt, PhD, ATC

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Chris Gregory, PhD

Research Project: Central and Peripheral Neuromuscular Adaptations as Indicators of Functional Recovery Following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction

Current Position: **Adjunct Faculty, Physical Therapy at Tufts University School of Medicine**

2017



Kelly McGloom, PhD, OTR/L

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Michelle Woodbury, PhD

Research Project: Optimizing Post-Stroke Motor Learning Treatment Conditions

Current Position: **Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy at Medical University of South Carolina**

2017

Casey O. Holmes, MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Steven Rosenzweig, PhD

Research Project: Neuroprotective Role of Melatonin Receptors in Spinal Cord Injury

Current Position: **General Family Medicine, Greenwood, SC**

2017



Craig J. Kutz, MD, MPH, PhD

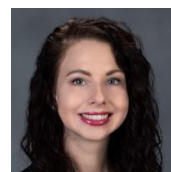
College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Patrick M. Woster, PhD

Research Project: Targeting Epigenetic Enzymes as Potential Therapeutics in Cardiac Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury

Current Position: **Aerospace Medicine Resident Physician, The University of Texas Medical Branch**

2017



Jennifer Scott, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Gary Gilkeson, PhD

Research Project: Estrogen Receptor Alpha Modulation of Type I Interferon Production in Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells Derived from Lupus Patients

Current Position: **Dermatology Fellow, Penn State Health**

2017



Jamie Lynn Speiser, PhD, MSc

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Valerie Durkalski-Mauldin, MD

Research Project: Random Forest Prognosis Model for Repeatedly Measured Binary Patient Outcomes

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics and Data Sciences at Wake Forest University Health Sciences

2015



Joseph L. Alge, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: John Arthur, MD/PhD

Research Project: Discovery of Graft-Versus-Host Disease Biomarkers by Proteomic Analysis of Plasma Exomes

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Pediatric Nephrologist at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Health

2016

Victor M. Fresco, PhD

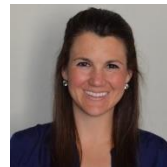
College of Health Professions

Mentor: William Argraves, PhD

Research Project: Fibulin-1 Dysregulation of Fgf8 Signaling in DiGeorge Syndrome

Current Position: Field Application Scientist, Velsera

2015



Nicole Dipiro, PhD

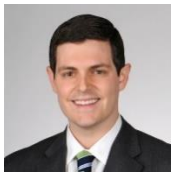
College of Health Professions

Mentor: James Krause, PhD

Research Project: Aerobic Exercise to Treat Depression Following Incomplete SCI

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions at Medical University of South Carolina

2016



Anthony Leonard, MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Craig Beeson, PhD

Research Project: Mitochondrial Protective Mechanisms in the Neurodegenerative Process of Retinitis Pigmentosa

Current Position: Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Carolina Eye Associates, P.A.

2015



Jordan Gruber, PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Yong-Mei Zhang, PhD

Research Project: The Role of Dihydroxyquinoline (DHQ) in Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Pathogenicity

Current Position: Animal Health Leader, NOAM at International Flavors & Fragrances



South Carolina
Clinical & Translational
Research Institute