

## TL1 Alumni

### 2023

**Christine Couch** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Stephen Tomlinson, PhD

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

Graduated: 2023

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

Graduated: 2022

Current Position: Research Scientist, Eli Lilly and Company

**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

Graduated: 2022

Current Position: Senior Scientist, Department of Biostatistics at Merck

**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

Graduated: 2022

Current Position: Medical Science Liaison, Natera, Inc.

**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

Graduated: 2022

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

**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

Graduated: 2022

Current Position: Assistant Professor Public Health, Baylor University

**Danira Medunjanin** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Kelly Hunt, PhD

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

Graduated: 2022

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

**Corey Morrow** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Kit Simpson, PhD

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

Graduated: 2022

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

**Johnathan Turner** - MSTP

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

Graduated: 2022

Current Position: Resident, Internal Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital

**2021**

**John Barrows** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: David Long PhD

Research Project: Personalized Therapy for BRCA 1-mutant Tumors

Graduated: 2021

Current Position: Postdoctoral Researcher, Kennesaw State University

**Charles Reese III** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Stanley Hoffman PhD

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

Graduated: 2021

Current Position: Research Fellow at Medical University of South Carolina

**Amanda Vatinno** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Na Jin Seo PhD

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

Graduated: 2021

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

**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

Graduated: 2020

Current Position: Technical Services Systems Manager, Nephron Nitrile

**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

Graduated: 2020

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

**Ravyn Duncan** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Nathan Dolloff PhD

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

Graduated: 2020

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

**David Hartmann** - MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Andy Shih PhD

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

Graduated: 2020

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

**Xinh-Xinh Nguyen** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Carol Feghali-Bostwick PhD

Research Project: The Role of Lysyl Oxidase in Systemic Sclerosis

Graduated: 2020

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

**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

Graduated: 2020

Current Position: Postdoctoral Fellow, National Cancer Institute

**2019**

**Raymond Boaz** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Andrew Lawson PhD

Research Project: Multivariate Air Pollutant Exposure Prediction and Characterization

Graduated: 2019

Current Position: Senior Director of Data Sciences, FreightWaves

**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

Graduated: 2019

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

**Daniel Herr** - MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Donald Menick PhD

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

Graduated: 2019

Current Position: Resident, Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

**Serena-Kaye Kinley-Cooper** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Deanna Adkins PhD

Research Project: Enhancing Motor Recovery Following MCAo in Aged Rats

Graduated: 2019

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Biology at College of Charleston

**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

Graduated: 2019

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

**Brian Riesenber**g - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Yi Yang PhD

Research Project: Role of Platelets in Dampening Antitumor Immunity

Graduated: 2019

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

**Halley Rycenga** - PhD

College of Graduation Studies

Mentor: David Long PhD

Research Project: The Role of p97 in DNA Crosslink Repair

Graduated: 2019

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

**Danielle Stevens** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Kelly Hunt PhD

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

Graduated: 2019

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

**Erik Strungs** - MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Louis Luttrell MD/PhD

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

Graduated: 2019

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

**Caroline Vrana-Diaz** - PhD  
College of Graduate Studies  
Mentor: Jeffrey Korte PhD  
Research Project: Gender Equity and HIV Self-testing in Kenya and Uganda  
Graduated: 2019  
Current Position: Research Project Coordinator, Foundation for Prader-Willi Research

**Carly Williams** - 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)  
Graduated: 2019  
Current Position: Scientist Translational Medicine, Natera, Inc.

## 2018

**Danielle Desjardins** - MD/PhD  
College of Graduate Studies  
Mentor: Zsolt Ablonczy PhD  
Research Project: Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Degenerative Pathologies  
Graduated: 2018  
Current Position: Resident, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University

**Carolina Fugle Wallace** - MD/PhD  
College of Graduate Studies  
Mentor: Zihai Li MD/PhD  
Research Project: The Role of TGFB in B-Cell Biology and Autoimmunity  
Graduated: 2018  
Current Position: Freelance Scientific Writer, Essentially Science, LLC

**George Glenn** - MD/PhD  
College of Graduate Studies  
Mentor: Jens Jensen PhD  
Research Project: Assessment of Ischemic Stroke with Advanced Diffusion Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
Graduated: 2018  
Current Position: Neuroradiology Fellow, Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine

**Jennifer Hunnicutt** - PhD  
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  
Graduated: 2018  
Current Position: Adjunct Faculty, Physical Therapy at Tufts University School of Medicine

## 2017

### **Kelly Anderson** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Michelle Woodbury PhD

Research Project: Optimizing Post-Stroke Motor Learning Treatment Conditions

Graduated: 2017

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy at Eastern Carolina University

### **Casey Holmes** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Steven Rosenzweig PhD

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

Graduated: 2017

Current Position: General Family Medicine, Greenwood, SC

### **Craig Kutz** - MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Patrick Woster PhD

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

Graduated: 2017

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

### **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

Graduated: 2017

Current Position: Dermatology Fellow, Penn State Health

### **Jamie Speiser** - MD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Valerie Durkalski-Mauldin MD

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

Graduated: 2017

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

## 2016

### **Victor Fresco** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: William Argraves PhD

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

Graduated: 2016

Current Position: Field Application Scientist, Velsera

### **Anthony Leonard** - MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Craig Beeson PhD

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

Graduated: 2016

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

## 2015

### **Joseph 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

Graduated: 2015

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Pediatric Nephrologist and Physician Scientist at Baylor College of Medicine

### **Maria Dipiro** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: James Krause PhD

Research Project: Aerobic Exercise to Treat Depression Following Incomplete SCI

Graduated: 2015

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

### **Jordan Gruber** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Yong-Mei Zhang PhD

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

Graduated: 2015

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

## 2014

### **Kendra Garand** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Bonnie Martin-Harris PhD

Research Project: Quantifying Normal Swallow Physiology Across the Adult Lifespan

Graduated: 2014

Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Communication Science and Disorders (CSD) at University of Pittsburgh

### **Katlyn McGrattan** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Bonnie Martin-Harris PhD

Research Project: Validation of a Noninvasive Assessment Method for Feeding and Swallowing Impairment in Infants with Cardiac Conditions

Graduated: 2014

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at University of Minnesota

### **Kristin Midgett** - PhD

College of Health Professions

Mentor: Diane Kamen MD

Research Project: The Effects of PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) on the Immune System and its Possible Role in Triggering Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)

Graduated: 2014

Current Position: Interior Designer

### **Lee Wheless** - MD/PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Anthony Alberg PhD

Graduated: 2014

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center

## 2013

### **Melissa Allen** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Kevin Delaney MD

Graduated: 2013

Current Position: Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Specialist, Augusta University Medical Center

### **Sarah Logan** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Joyce Nicholas PhD

Research Project: Psychotropic Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Graduated: 2013

### **Jordan Magarik** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Daniel Lackland PhD

Graduated: 2013

Current Position: Clinician, Neurosurgery, Mercy Clinic

## 2012

### **Andrea Boan** - PhD

College of Graduate Studies

Mentor: Daniel Lackland PhD

Graduated: 2012

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Epidemiology at Medical University of South Carolina

### **Guillermo De Angulo** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Robert Adams MD

Graduated: 2012

Current Position: Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist, Miami Children's Hospital

## 2011

### **Clayton Ellis** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Nester Esnaola MD

Research Project: Effect of Seat Belt Use and Impact of Mandatory Seat Belts Laws on Motor Vehicle-Related Health and Economic Outcomes

Graduated: 2011

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery at University of Louisville

### **Charles Hatcher** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Michelle Macias MD

Graduated: 2011

Current Position: Pediatrician, Georgia Regents University



**Brandi Stevens** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Diane Kamen MD

Research Project: Determining the Role of PBDEs and PFAAs as Environmental Triggers of Autoimmunity in Genetically at-risk Individuals

Graduated: 2011

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology at Indiana University School of Medicine

**Jason Wheeler** - MD

College of Medicine

Mentor: Carolyn Reed MD

Research Project: Chemotherapy Sensitivity of Esophageal Adenocarcinoma

Graduated: 2011

Current Position: Clinician, Department of Vascular Medicine at Cleveland Clinic Florida, Weston Hospital