Former DDCRF Fellows / Mentors

Fellows

This page provides information on the fellows and their projects since the Penn DDCRF program began in 2002:

2012-2013

**Anandita Agarwala**
Medical School: University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas
Mentors: Dr. Dan Rader, Medicine
Project: Characterization of an unusual phenotype: elevated HDL cholesterol and coronary heart disease

**Catherine Auriemma**
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Scott Halpern, Medicine
Project: Patient- and surrogate-centered outcomes for comparative effectiveness research

**Rebecca Davis**
Medical School: Penn
Mentors: Dr. Joseph Dalmau, Neurology and Dr. Scott Kasner, Neurology
Project: Immune-mediated Status Epilepticus in Paraneoplastic Disorders

**Charlotte Lawson**
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Karin Rhodes, Emergency Medicine
Project: Role of Percent Predicted Peak Expiratory Flow Rate in the Management of Asthma Patient in the Emergency Department

**J. Thomas Paliga**
Medical School: Duke
Mentor: Dr. Jesse Taylor, Surgery
Project: Incidence and Long-term Outcomes of Single Suture Craniosynostosis

**Katherine Riva (International)**
Medical School: University of Massachusetts
Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Lowenthal, Pediatrics
Project: Factors Affecting Alcohol and Drug Use Among Secondary School Students in Botswana

**Sunny Tang**
Medical School: State University of New York, Downstate
Mentor: Dr. Raquel Gur, Psychiatry
Project: Psychopathology in 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome

**Martha Tesfalul (International)**
Medical School: Johns Hopkins
Mentor: Dr. Carrie Kovarik, Dermatology
Project: Evaluation of Impact of Telemedicine on Medical Management and Outcomes of Patients in Botswana with Dermatologic and Oral Lesions
Mathew Thomas  
Medical School: Duke  
Mentor: Dr. Andrew Maidment, Radiology  

Kathryn Zagrabbe  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Deborah Kim, Psychiatry  
Project: Fetal Adrenal Gland Volume in Pregnant Women With and Without Stress

2011-2012

Program Leaders, Dr. Angela DeMichele and Dr. Rachel Kelz; Program Administrator, Amy Nothelfer; and 2011-2012 Fellows

Katherine Dillon  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Clarisa Gracia, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Project: Fertility in Female Cancer Survivors

Emily Greenberger (International)  
Medical School: Dartmouth  
Mentors: Dr. Michelle Haas, Medicine and Dr. Andrew Steenhoff, Pediatrics  
Project: Validation of CRB-65 severity of index score in predicting mortality among patients with pneumonia in Gaborone, Botswana

Ron Li  
Medical School: Northwestern  
Mentor: Dr. Stephen Kimmel, Medicine  
Project: The Effects of Plasma Vitamin K on Warfarin Dosing

Claire Mulvey  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Muredach Reilly, Medicine  
Project: Fenofibrate's effect on the physiological response to endotoxemia

Sarah Puryear (International)  
Medical School: Johns Hopkins  
Mentors: Dr. Andrew Steenhoff, Pediatrics and Dr. Greg Bisson, Medicine (Infectious Disease)  
Project: Assessment of the TB case detection rate using 3 different contact tracing approaches in Gaborone, Botswana; Effect of HIV infection on tuberculosis treatment outcomes in patients with CD4 >= 250

Kelly Quinley  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Courtney Schreiber, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Project: Predictors of physical and psychological wellbeing in the immediate post-abortion period

Rachel (Schoenfeld) Yang  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentors: Dr. Rachel Kelz, Surgery and Dr. Brian Czerniecki, Surgery
Project: Assessing the phenotype of DCIS present in BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers as a way to predict vaccines that can be developed to prevent disease recurrence or invasive breast cancer

Sarah Wallace  
Medical School: Johns Hopkins  
Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Abella, Emergency Medicine  
Project: Identification and analysis of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Philadelphia using a geographic information system

2010-2011

2010-2011 Fellows

Aileen Chang  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Werth, Dermatology  
Project: Treatment Outcomes in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus

Samira Farouk  
Medical School: UMDNJ  
Mentor: Dr. Daniel Rader, Medicine  
Project: Cxcl12 Levels in Controls vs Acute Coronary Syndrome

Lindsay Griffin  
Medical School: University of Wisconsin  
Mentor: Dr. Mary Beth Leonard, Pediatrics  
Project: Pediatric Nephrologists’ Use of Vitamin D in Pediatric Renal Patients

Michael Kelly-Sell  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Alain Rook, Dermatology  
Project: Systemic immune effects of Resiquimod (a toll-like receptor 7,8 agonist) in CTCL patients

Christopher Morse  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Kurt Barnhart, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Project: Defining The Relationship Between Early beta-hCG Levels And Birth Outcomes

Adam Schwartz (International)  
Medical School: Mount Sinai on NYU  
Mentor: Dr. Greg Bisson, Medicine (Infectious Disease)  
Project: Risk factors for delayed initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) among HIV-infected adults with active tuberculosis (TB)

Paul Sonenthal (International)  
Medical School: Duke University  
Mentor: Dr. Robert Gross, Medicine (Infectious Disease)  
Project: Coping, Symptoms and Adherence in Patients Starting ART

Julie Yu  
Medical School: UMDNJ  
Mentor: Dr. Graham Quinn, Ophthalmology  
Project: Quantitative Analysis of Retinal Vascular Changes in Retinopathy of Prematurity
YiDing Yu  
Medical School: Duke University  
Mentor: Dr. Nehal Mehta, Medicine and Dr. Sandy Schwartz, Medicine and Health Care Systems  
Project: Evaluation of Immune Cellular Composition of Vascular and Skin Inflammation in Psoriasis Utilizing FDG PET/CT

2009-2010

Program Leader Dr. Angela DeMichele and Administrator Amy Nothelfer & 2009-2010 Fellows

Katrina Abuabara  
Medical School: Harvard University  
Mentor: Dr. Joel Gelfand, Dermatology  
Project: Clinical epidemiology in dermatology

Jessica Cataldi (International)  
Medical School: Northwestern University  
Mentor: Dr. Gregory Bisson, Medicine (Infectious Disease)  
Project: Alcohol use and early virologic and immunologic responses in adults with active TB and advanced HIV

Christopher Favilla  
Medical School: University of Florida  
Mentor: Dr. Scott Kasner, Neurology  
Project: Optical measurement of cerebral hemodynamics during induced hypertension for acute stroke management

Claire Friedman  
Medical School: New York University  
Mentors: Dr. Jun James Mao, Family Medicine & Community Health and Dr. Angela DeMichele, Medicine  
Project: Hypovitaminosis D and Aromatase Inhibitor-associated Arthralgia

Jonathan Ludmir (International)  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentors: Dr. Andrew Steenhoff, Pediatrics and Dr. Joshua Metlay, Medicine  
Project: Vitamin D levels in Batswana HIV-Infected Children with and without Active TB: A Pilot Study

Kathleen McKeegan  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Richard Rutstein, Pediatrics  
Project: Evaluation of the Clinical Effectiveness of a Pilot Modified-Directly Observed Therapy Program for Nonadherent, Perinatally Infected, HIV-1 positive Children and Adolescents

Jarrod Predina  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Joel Cooper, Surgery  
Project: An ethical and methodologic evaluation of the National Emphysema Treatment Trial

Debra Yeboa  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Justin Bekelman, Radiation Oncology  
Project: The adoption of active surveillance national guidelines and its relation to prostate cancer specific survival in older men with localized prostate cancer
2008-2009

2008-2009 Fellows

Rachael Bonawitz (International)
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Gregory Bisson, Medicine (Infectious Disease)
Projects: Immunology and Outcomes in Adults with HIV TB starting HAART

Laura DiNardo
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Drs. Stephan Grupp and Valerie Brown, Pediatrics
Projects: The PIM-1 Inhibitor SGI-1776 alone and in combination with the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin is efficacious in preclinical models of pre-B ALL

Annemarie Fernandes
Medical School: UMDNJ
Mentor: Dr. Ramesh Rengan, Radiation Oncology
Projects: Patterns of Failure and Toxicities in Patients with Locally Advanced Non Small Cell Lung Cancer Treated with Elective Nodal Irradiation versus Involved Field Radiation Therapy

Devon Ghodasra
Medical School: Medical College of Georgia
Mentor: Dr. Graham Quinn, Ophthalmology
Projects: Digital Image Vessel Analysis in Retinopathy of Prematurity

Rebecca Hackell
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Ronald Litman, Anesthesiology and Critical Care
Projects: The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Difficult Airway Registry

Aaron Koenig
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Michael Thase, Psychiatry
Projects: Determinants of Long Term Recovery Following Cognitive Behavior Therapy of Recurrent Depression: Clinical and Genetic Factors

Jonas Nelson
Medical School: University of Maryland
Mentor: Drs. Seema Sonnad and Liza Wu, Surgery
Projects: Breast Reconstruction in Patients Who Elect Prophylactic Mastectomy

Timothy O’Meara
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Samir Shah, Pediatrics and Epidemiology

Abiona Redwood (International)
Medical School: Duke University
Mentor: Dr. Robert Gross, Medicine (Infectious Disease)
Projects: Vitamin D levels in TB patients in Botswana: A pilot study

Hilary Smolen
Medical School: Drexel University
Mentor: Dr. Maureen Maguire, Ophthalmology
Projects: Development and progression of early geographic atrophy; Inflammatory cytokines in the tear film of Sjögrens Syndrome patients

2007-2008

Program Leaders Dr. Angela DeMichele and Dr. Josh Metlay & 2007-2008 Fellows

Naeema Ginwala
Medical School: PCOM
Mentor: Dr. Muredach Reilly, Medicine
Project: Candidate gene associations with CAD

Jillian Mongelluzzo
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Samir Shah, Pediatrics
Projects: 1) Steroids and meningitis; 2) Pseudomonas bloodstream infection

Shweta Motiwala
Medical School: NYU
Mentor: Dr. Keith Flaherty, Medicine
Project: Polymorphisms in angiogenesis-associated genes, toxicity, and response to sorafenib in renal cell carcinoma

Deepika Nemani
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Graham Quinn, Pediatric Ophthalmology, and Dr. Laura Balcer, Neurology
Projects: 1) Quadrant specific differences RNFL thickness using OCT and GDx in MS patients; 2) Semi-automated digital imaging for eyes with ROP and without ROP

Jennifer Swails
Medical School: Cornell
Mentor: Dr. George Coukos, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Project: Modeling and targeting ovarian cancer vasculature

2006-2007

Kevin Downes
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. David Rubin, Pediatrics
Projects: 1) The impact of kinship care on behavioral well-being among children in foster care; 2) The children's stability & well-being study (CSAW)

Sarah Dubner
Medical School: Penn
Mentors: Drs. Mary Beth Leonard and Jon Burnham, Pediatrics

Ana Flores
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Evaline Alessandrini, Pediatrics
Projects: 1) The effect of continuity of care on receipt of health screening services; 2) Health related quality of life after an acute illness

Sean Heffron
Medical School: Duke
Mentor: Dr. Muredach Reilly, Medicine
Project: Inflammation-induced protein and lipid modifications – biomarkers of metabolic and atherosclerotic disease

Shanu Kohli
Medical School: Jefferson
Mentor: Dr. Joel Gelfand, Dermatology
Project: A phase II open label study of the safety and efficacy of curcuminoids C3 complex in patients with chronic psoriasis vulgaris

Sarah Wood
Medical School: Drexel
Mentor: Dr. Richard Rutstein, Pediatrics

Cooper Wriston
Medical School: Duke
Mentor: Dr. Michael Ming, Dermatology
Project: Elastosis is not associated with melanoma metastases

2005-2006

Program Leader Dr. Josh Metlay & 2005-2006 Fellows

Nitya Abraham
Medical School: New York University
Mentor: Dr. Katrina Armstrong, Medicine
Project: Racial differences in the evaluation of prostate cancer

David Bajor
Medical School: Case Western Reserve
Mentor: Dr. Robert Vonderheide, Medicine
Project: 1) Molecular and genetic determinants of breast cancer outcome; 2) Molecular and genetic determinants of bone loss in breast cancer survivors receiving adjuvant chemotherapy

Whitney Bowe
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. David Margolis, Dermatology
Project: Upper respiratory tract infection in household contacts of acne patients on antibiotics
Jeremy Brauer  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Michael Ming, Dermatology  
Project: Development of prognostic model for recurrent melanoma

Aaron Brown  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Judd Hollander, Emergency Medicine  
Project: Acute myocardial ischemia risk assessment using B-type natriuretic peptide

Jessica Kagen  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Samir Shah, Pediatrics  
Project: Epidemiology and risk factors for surgical site infections in children following median sternotomy

2004-2005

Jennifer Fisher  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Maureen Maguire, Ophthalmology  
Project: 1) Relation of visual function to retinal nerve fiber layer thickness in multiple sclerosis; 2) Development and validation of an eye surgical skills assessment test for ophthalmology residents; 3) Prevalence of glaucoma in African-American patients with sleep apnea syndrome

Jesse Goldstein  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Flora Winston, Pediatrics  
Project: Cost-effectiveness of a Medicaid-based child safety seat disbursement and education program

Ryan Murray  
Medical School: University of Iowa  
Mentor: Dr. Murray Grossman, Neurology  
Project: Lexical acquisition in progressive aphasia and frontotemporal dementia

Tonya Walker  
Medical School: Johns Hopkins University  
Mentor: Dr. Katrina Armstrong, Pediatrics  
Project: Reproductive health distrust and health literacy—Are they related?

Lorri Wilson  
Medical School: Penn  
Mentor: Dr. Graham Quinn, Ophthalmology  
Project: The relation of axial length and intraocular pressure fluctuations in human eyes

2003-2004

2003-2004 Fellows

Jamie Alton  
Medical School: Temple
Mentor: Dr. Angela DeMichele, Medicine and Epidemiology
Project: 1) Molecular and Genetic Determinants of Ovarian Dysfunction and Bone Loss in Breast Cancer Survivors; 2) Living Well After Cancer Program, Prospective Outcomes in Survivors of Solid Tumors (POST) - Breast Protocol

Elizabeth McCann Rickerson
Medical School: Columbia
Mentor: Dr. David Casarett, Geriatrics
Project: The role of hospice in long-term care

Alison Niebanck
Medical School: Duke
Mentor: Dr. Leslie Raffini, Pediatrics
Project: 1) Incidence of Neutropenia following IVIG therapy in Pediatric Patients with Immune Mediated Thrombocytopenia (ITP); 2) Evaluation of Abnormal Coagulation Studies in Pediatric Patients with Sickle Cell Disease, Prevalence and Causes of Headaches in Children with Sickle Cell Disease

Jim Ulager
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Ken Ginsburg, Pediatrics
Project: Factors that Affect Homeless Youths’ Trust in Helping Professionals

Brian Wills
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. John Dormans, Orthopaedic Surgery
Project: Outcomes following occipitocervical arthrodesis in the pediatric population

2002-2003

David Chao
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Richard Rutstein, Pediatrics
Project: 1) Incidence and implications of psychiatric symptomatology amongst urban children perinatally infected with HIV; 2) Epidemiology of GB virus coinfection and correlation with disease markers in an urban perinatally-infected pediatric HIV+ population

Sumeet Garg
Medical School: Harvard
Mentor: Dr. John Dormans, Orthopaedic Surgery (CHOP)
Project: Outcomes following modern management of spine and spinal cord tumors in children

Kitty O’Hare
Medical School: Penn
Mentor: Dr. Martin Keane, Medicine
Project: Endothelial and diastolic function in normotensive offspring of African-American essential hypertensive patients.

Manisha Shanbhag
Medical School: Duke
Mentor: Dr. Richard Rutstein, Pediatrics
Projects: 1) The impact of HAART on neurocognitive outcomes in perinatally HIV infected children; 2) Baseline resistance-associated mutations in perinatally HIV-infected children
Mercedes Torres
Medical School: Penn
Mentors: Drs. Kathleen Brady, Medicine and Sandy Schwartz, Medicine and Health Care Systems
Project: Relationship between use of complementary/alternative medicine and adherence to conventional medicine among HIV/AIDS patients