

Mayo Clinic M.D.-Ph.D. Program Current Students *

Junior MD Phase (M1/M2)



Oluwafunto Akindona, B.A.
Carleton College

Research Interests:
Cancer biology



Dallin Ashton, B.S.
Brigham Young University

Research Interest:
Immunology



Angad Beniwal, B.S.
University of California,
Los Angeles

Research Interests:
Neuroscience



Likem Boney, B.A.
Vanderbilt University

Research Interests:
Immunology, regenerative sciences



Samantha Bouchal, B.S.
Duke University

Research Interests:
Neurobiology, neuroinflammation,
cancer



Sachi Chaudhari, B.S.
The Ohio State University

Research Interests:
Immunology



Pedro Del Cioppo Vasques, B.S.
University of Chicago

Research Interests:
Neurodegeneration, glial cells



Ejlal Elaloui, B.S.
Johns Hopkins University

Research Interests:
Epigenetics, molecular biology



J. Pedro F. Safi, B.S., M.S.
Carnegie Mellon University

Research Interests:
Cell and gene therapy,
regenerative medicine



Matthew Flick, B.A.
University of California-Berkeley

Research Interests:
Neuro-oncology,
neuroradiology



Sophia Goldberg, B.A.
Princeton University

Research Interest:
Immunology



Trung Huynh, B.S.
University of Alabama
at Birmingham

Research Interests:
Regenerative sciences,
stem cells



Malavika Nair, B.A.
University of Florida

Research Interests:
Neuroscience and
regenerative medicine



David Nascari, B.A.
University of Pittsburgh

Research Interests:
Regenerative medicine,
extracellular matrix biomaterials,
tumor microenvironment



Asfia Numani, B.S.
Arizona State University

Research Interest:
Immunology



Lindsey Randall, B.S.
University of Oklahoma

Research Interest:
Cardiology and regenerative
medicine



Juan Rojas Cabrera, B.S.
Winona State University

Research Interests:
Neuromodulation, movement
disorders, neuropsychiatric
conditions



Peter Rosen, B.S.
Brigham Young University



Vanessa Stubbs, B.S.
Florida Atlantic University

Research Interests:
Immunology, gene therapy



John Vu, B.S.
The Ohio State University

Research Interests:
Pediatric genetic disease,
inborn errors of metabolism,
enzyme replacement and
gene therapies



Bailey Winter, B.S., M.S.
Michigan State University

Research Interest:
Deep brain stimulation

Research Phase (G)



Jacob Anderson, B.S.
University of Minnesota-Rochester

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Dr. David Daniels, Advisor
Research Interest:
Development of novel chemical tools for the study and treatment of primary CNS neoplasms



Maria Astudillo Potes, B.S.
Baylor University

Regenerative Sciences

Dr. Lichun Lu, Advisor
Research Interests:
Biomaterials and biomechanics



Sahej Bains, B.S.
Purdue University

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor
Research Interest:
Suppression-replacement
KCNH2 gene therapy for type 2 Long QT Syndrome



Joseph Barnett, B.S.
Western Michigan University

Neuroscience

Dr. John Fryer, Advisor
Research Interest:
Biological psychiatry and sepsis associated brain dysfunction



Shreya Bellampalli, B.S.
University of Arizona

Neuroscience

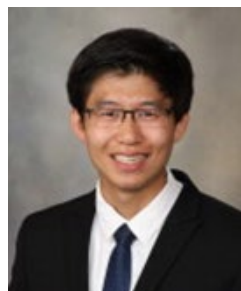
Dr. Arthur Beyder, Advisor
Research Interests:
Neuronal signaling and ion channel physiology



Mylan Blomquist, B.S.
Arizona State University

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Dr. Nhan Tran, Advisor
Research Interest:
Signal transduction in glioblastoma



Justin Choe, B.S.
University of California-Berkeley

Immunology

Dr. Virginia Shapiro, Advisor
Research Interest:
Immunomodulatory approaches for autoimmunity



Caroline Doherty, B.S.
Georgetown University

TBD

Research Interests:
Experimental therapeutics, pediatric oncology



Mihai Dumbrava, B.M.S.
University of Western Ontario

TBD

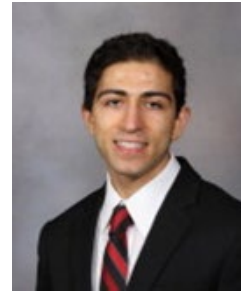
Research Interests:
Cancer Biology, immunotherapy,
and regenerative medicine



Armin Garmany, B.S.
Marshall University

Regenerative Sciences

Dr. Andre Terzic, Advisor
Research Interest:
Targeted therapies for heart failure
susceptibility



Ramin Garmany, B.S.
Marshall University

**Molecular Pharmacology &
Experimental Therapeutics**

Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor
Research Interest:
Leveraging -omic technologies to
identify novel therapeutic targets
for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy



Abhinav Goyal, B.S. (Hon)
Columbia University

**Biomedical Engineering &
Physiology**

Dr. Kendall Lee, Advisor
Research Interests:
Electrochemistry, artificial
intelligence, computational
neuroscience



Robin Heider, B.S.
Johns Hopkins University

Clinical & Translational Science

Dr. Karl Clark, Advisor
Research Interest:
Endocannabinoid signaling in the
stress response, behavioral
genetics, genome editing



Harvey Huang, B.A.S.
University of Pennsylvania

Clinical & Translational Science

Dr. Dora Hermes, Advisor
Research Interests:
Vision science, epilepsy,
intracranial EEG, neurostimulation,
computational neuroscience,
machine learning



Lucien Jay, B.A.
College of Charleston

Regenerative Sciences

Dr. Leigh Griffiths, Advisor



Michael Jensen, B.S.
Oregon State University

Neuroscience

Dr. Kai Miller, Advisor
Research Interest:
Brain-computer interface; using
depth electrodes to understand
functional interconnectivity of
distributed motor networks



Jake Kloeber, B.S.
University of Rochester

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Zhenkun Lou, Advisor
Research Interests:
Genomic instability, chromosome segregation, and DNA repair



Kit (Catherine) Knier, B.S.
Marquette University

Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Anthony Windebank, Advisor
Research Interest:
Promoting children's social and emotional health in the community setting



Kevin Le, B.S.
University of Texas at Austin

Immunology
Research Interests:
Human immunology, autoimmune disease, vascular inflammation, atherosclerosis



Olivia Liseth, B.S.
University of Florida

Immunology
Research Interests:
Immunology, immunotherapies, biomedical engineering



Jordan Marks, B.S.
Northeastern University

Neuroscience
Research Interest:
Neurodegenerative disease pathogenesis, gene therapy



Arnaldo Mercado-Perez, B.S.
Johns Hopkins University

Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Arthur Beyder, Advisor
Research Interest:
Mechanisms of mechano-transduction in the GI tract



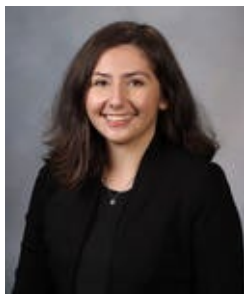
Kianna Nguyen, B.S.
University of Colorado-Boulder

Regenerative Sciences
Dr. Alexander Revzin, Advisor
Research Interest:
Engineering biomaterial platforms for regenerative medicine



Praveen Pallegar, B.S.
Stanford University

Neuroscience
Dr. Long-Jun Wu, Advisor
Research Interests:
Glia, neurodegeneration



Cecile Riviere-Cazaux, B.S.
University of California-
Los Angeles

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Terence Burns, Advisor
Research Interests:
Neuro-oncology experimental
therapeutics, clinical trial
development



Skylar Rizzo, B.S.
University of Florida

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor
Research Interests:
Cardiology, regenerative medicine,
extracellular vesicles



Taylor Trentadue, B.S.
Duke University

Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Kristin Zhao, Advisor
Research Interest:
Orthopedic biomechanics and
musculoskeletal imaging



Kenneth Valles, B.S.
University of Colorado

Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Lewis Roberts, Advisor
Research Interest: Epidemiological
modeling of infectious origin
cancers in migrant and refugee
population



Caitlin VanLith, B.S.
St. Olaf College

Clinical & Translational Science
Research Interest:
Epidemiology, infectious disease,
public and global health



Taylor Weiskittel, B.E., M.S.
B.E., University of Tennessee
M.S., University of Minnesota

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Hu Li, Advisor
Research Interest:
Systems and synthetic biology,
machine learning, oncology,
immunology



Jessica Weng, B.S.
Rice University

Clinical & Translational Science
Research Interests:
Women's health,
cancer immunobiology,
tumor microenvironment



Lincoln Wurtz, B.A.
Ripon College

Neuroscience
Dr. Isobel Scarisbrick, Advisor
Research Interests:
Neurodegeneration, myelin repair



Grace Yu, B.S.
McGill University

Clinical & Translational Science

Research Interests:
Systems biology, bioinformatics
and computational medicine,
regenerative sciences



Sherry Zhou, B.S.
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Dr. L. James Maher, III, Advisor
Research Interests:
Endocrine tumors, biochemistry
and chemical biology, oncogenesis,
cancer metabolism

Senior MD Phase (M3/M4)



Whitney Barham, B.S.
Rhodes College

Immunology
Dr. Haidong Dong, Advisor
Research Interest:
Tumor immunology--How to increase the cytotoxicity of T cells in response to PD-1 blockade



Susanna Basappa, B.S.
University of San Francisco

Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Lila Rutten, Advisor
Research Interest:
Variation in mode of detection for breast cancer by breast density and stage at diagnosis



Steven Dotzler, B.A.
Concordia College

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor
Research Interest:
Suppression-replacement KCNQ1 gene therapy for type 1 long QT syndrome



Ethan Grund, B.A.
Wesleyan University

Neuroscience
Dr. Charles Howe, Advisor
Research Interests:
Pentose phosphate inhibition in cytotoxic lymphocytes ameliorates neuroinflammatory disease



Josiane Joseph, B.S.
University of Florida

Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Jason Doles, Advisor
Research Interest:
Influence of metabolic alterations on satellite cell function and muscle regeneration



Daniel Lindberg, B.A.
University of Virginia

Neuroscience
Dr. Doo-Sup Choi, Advisor
Research Interest:
Blood and brain metabolic signatures of depression, schizophrenia and alcohol use disorder



Dileep Monie, B.A.
Harvard University

Immunology
Regenerative Sciences (conc)
Drs. Hu Li & Richard Vile, Advisors
Research Interest:
Systems biology for engineering regenerative immunotherapies in precision neuro-oncology



Joseph Panos, B.S., M.S.
Ohio State University

Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Chris Evans, Advisor
Research Interest:
Immunomodulation to improve the clinical performance of bone morphogenetic protein 2



Lindy Pence, B.S.
Wofford College

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Dr. Panos Anastasiadis, Advisor
Research Interests:
Roles and regulation of PLEKHA7,
an apical adherens junction
protein, in physiologic and
pathophysiologic states



Aaron Rusheen, B.S.
University of Rochester

Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Kendall Lee, Advisor
Research Interest:
Deep brain stimulation,
electrochemistry, closed-loop
neurochemical control systems,
7T MRI surgical navigation,
stereotactic engineering



Jonathan Scott, B.S.
Washington State University

Biomedical Engineering &
Physiology
Dr. Richard Ehman, Advisor
Research Interest:
Machine learning algorithms for
mechanical property estimation in
Magnetic Resonance
Elastography



John Strikwerda, B.S.
Calvin College

Biomedical Engineering &
Physiology
Dr. Steven Sine, Advisor
Research Interest:
A conserved intramembrane salt
bridge in the muscle nicotinic
acetylcholine receptor controls
channel gating, ion permeation
and their coupling



Nazanin Yeganeh Kazemi, B.S.
University of Missouri

Immunology
Dr. Svetomir Markovic, Advisor
Research Interest:
Determining the causes and
inflammatory consequences of
cell-free fetal DNA release

*Student participation is voluntary