



IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND
NEUROSURGERY
NEWSLETTER

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

01 Meet Our New Residents!

02 Match Reflections

03 Department Updates

04 Congrats Lyndsi!

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Interested in writing a column?
Wanting to share what type of news
you want to hear more of? Email
[Neurosurgery.Communications@
som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Neurosurgery.Communications@som.umaryland.edu)





MEET OUR MATCHES!



MAUREEN RAKOVEC

Maureen Rakovec was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Columbia University with a BA in Biology and Classics. She will receive her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in May. During her time in medical school, she has developed a deep appreciation for providing care to the residents of Baltimore and is excited to continue working with this population in residency. Her clinical interests in neurosurgery are wide-ranging; her research interests currently include using data science to understand and improve outcomes, including quality of life, for neuro-oncology patients. She is excited to explore every aspect of neurosurgery in residency, expand her research interests to include translational science, and develop meaningful relationships with each member of the Maryland Neurosurgery department. Outside of the hospital, Maureen is an amateur baker, foodie, coffee connoisseur, outdoorswoman, and pet mom to her cat, Zarathustra.



JORDAN SAADON

Jordan Saadon will be graduating in May from the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. He grew up in New City, New York, and attended college at Brandeis University. Jordan is the oldest of three children and the first in his family to attend college and medical school. His younger sister will be starting law school in the fall, and his brother will begin college. Jordan enjoys skiing, exercising (lifting, swimming, and sports), watching movies, and has recently picked up golfing. He is an avid New York sports fan as well.

Currently, he is interested in functional neurosurgery but plans to keep an open mind. Jordan is excited to move to Baltimore and explore the city's wonderful sites and food scene! "I look forward to joining the Maryland Neurosurgery family and developing lifelong relationships that will extend past my time as a resident. I cannot wait to work with you all starting this summer!"



SOPHIE WHITE, MPH
Senior Academic Specialist

That's a wrap on the 2023 Match Season!

This year we moved interviews back to in-person, one of only 14 programs to do so. We came to this decision by pursuing what we believed was best for applicants, and we implemented strategies to mitigate barriers associated with travel for interviews. This risk resulted in a big reward; applicants received our in-person invitations with great enthusiasm! Candidates traveled across the country to meet us, visiting from California, Colorado, Minnesota, Texas, and Florida. Over three days, we interviewed 47 applicants; connecting with them authentically to achieve a mutually beneficial Match.

We send a major thank you to the faculty, residents, and staff who participated in the Match cycle this year. We recognize the valuable time and energy that each of you consistently invests in the process. Your unique contributions support the Match process, which ultimately influences our program, department, and patient care for years to come. We appreciate your commitment!

RESIDENCY INTERVIEWS BY THE NUMBERS:



328 Applications Received



47 Candidates Interviewed



3 Days of In-Person Interviews

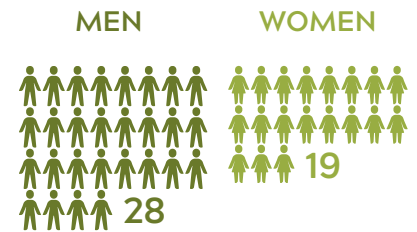


2 Fantastic Resident Matches!

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERVIEWED APPLICANTS:

	Men	Women	Total
Asian	11	4	15
Black	3	2	5
Hispanic or Latine	2	2	4
Native	1	0	1
SWANA*	2	0	2
White	9	11	20

*Southwest Asia and North Africa



TOTAL: 47 Applicants

SERBAN AND KONRAD MATCHED!



NEGOITA



WALEK

Serban Negoita, medical student and research fellow at the Simard Lab, is thrilled to report that he has matched at the University of Florida in Gainesville! Fun fact: **Marc Simard, MD, PhD** completed his residency there as well! Serban is looking forward to strong surgical training and a robust experience in cerebrovascular neurosurgery. "Thank you all for all of your support over these past several years - I truly enjoyed my time here and am grateful for all that you have taught me." Serban says. "Please think of me for possible collaborations and stay in touch."

Konrad Walek, MD, our first neurotrauma research fellow who will be leaving us in June, matched at the University of Louisville in Kentucky! "It is a growing program with excellent leadership and is close to both my home in Michigan and my fiancée's home in Kentucky." Konrad says, "I am beyond grateful to the entire Department at Maryland and especially **Bizhan Aarabi, MD** for supporting me in my pursuit of a successful Match this year." Louisville has an extensive spinal cord injury research infrastructure, so he hopes to continue contributing to the field of trauma neurosurgery research throughout his residency and future career. *Congratulations Serban and Konrad! Good luck in your residencies!*



DEPARTMENT UPDATES



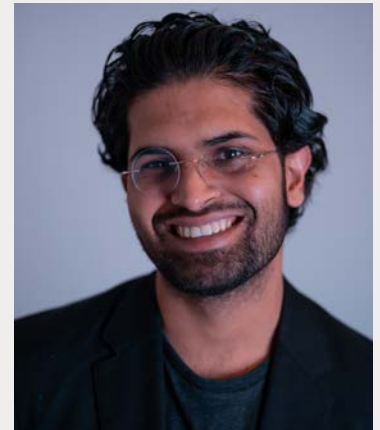
Help us name the services! Historically, we've gone with a nautical theme like "PORT" and "STAR," but since we are moving to a three service model, we need new team names. The services are divided into 3 teams: Tumor/Functional/Peds, Spine, and Cerebrovascular. The winner will be given a \$150 gift card to Alma Cocina! Email submissions to rcmcgowan@som.umaryland.edu by April 20th!

NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT

HASSAN SAADI, TTRG MD/PhD STUDENT

hsaadi@som.umaryland.edu

Hassan Saadi graduated from the University of Maryland College Park in 2017 with a dual degree in Biology (Physiology and Neurobiology specialization) and Biochemistry. Over the following three years, he has spent two cumulative years as an IRTA post-baccalaureate researcher at the NIH (NINDS and NIDCR) and acquired a Masters in Physiology and Biophysics from Georgetown University in 2019. Hassan is currently in his first year of graduate school and under mentorship of **Drs. Graeme Woodworth, Anthony Kim, and Jeff Winkles** at the TTRG lab. In addition, he is also a pre-doctoral IRTA fellow at Dr. Ambudkar's lab at NIDCR as part of the individual GPP. Hassan's primary goal is to acquire a graduate education with a translational focus, and he is particularly interested in neurosurgery as a medical practice. When he is not working hard on his studies, Hassan enjoys playing soccer and relaxing in his free time.



ALHUSAIN NAGM, MD, MSc, PhD-JAPAN, FNE-GERMANY

ANagm@som.umaryland.edu

Alhusain Nagm, MD, MSc, PhD-Japan, FNE-Germany, is a board-certified consultant skull base neurosurgeon specializing in complex brain tumors (newborns/infants/adults) via novel 360° approaches and 3D orientation with extensive Japanese clinical experience in Class "A" Skull Base Surgery (>57 months & >1350 operative cases) and innovative cadaveric dissections. His skills have been developed from combinations for surgical pearls from various institutes of neurosurgical techniques (Japan, Germany, U.S., and the Middle East). He is the top productive neurosurgical scientist in Egypt with the highest documented in publications from Johns Hopkins University. He is the winner of

the Gold Medal (the most prestigious award) of Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt for being the top neurosurgical scientist in Egypt which improved the international ranking of his affiliated university. Dr. Nagm is a visiting consultant neurosurgeon in Africa who delivers the best treatment options for the populations in restricted areas. Besides his talented operative skills, he is a lecturer who is teaches various skull base approaches to his residents, fellows, and medical students. Currently, Dr. Nagm is the Co-Director and Manager of the Neurosurgical Anatomy Lab at the university.



SUPPORT RACE FOR HOPE DC

25TH ANNUAL

NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY

RACE FOR HOPE

WASHINGTON, DC

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023 | 9 AM

Our department has one core focus: We face challenges to improve lives by solving complex problems. Our research from the MD Brain Tumor Treatment and Research Center is committed to solving these problems to improve the lives of our patients, and this is why we are proud to support the National Brain Tumor Society through their annual National Brain Tumor Walk and Race for Hope in DC on May 7th. Supporting innovations in the field of neurosurgery brings about advancements to patient care and outcomes for our brain tumor patients, which is the fundamental goal of our endeavors - we put our patients first! Please support our efforts by either registering to join our team or consider making a donation to one of our team's fundraising efforts. Contact [Liz Cahill, RN](#) for more info!



Liz Cahill, RN
Clinical Coordinator

PROMOTION ALERT!

Lyndsi Hiler, CRNP



"I am so thrilled and honored to announce that **Lyndsi Hiler, CRNP** has been recently promoted to Senior Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Manager! Over the past seven years since Lyndsi joined the department, she has proven to be an integral part of this team. Her constant dedication to the department, embodiment of our core values, and her commitment to caring for our patients, does not go unnoticed. Please help me in congratulating Lyndsi on this great accomplishment." —by *Liz Cahill*

RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT

Riccardo Serra, MD, PGY-3

Riccardo Serra, MD, PGY-3 on March 14th has been admitted into candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy! *Congratulations Riccardo! We wish you luck in your studies and pursuit in this doctorate program at the university!*



MARCH 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

MARCH GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, March 2 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Graeme Woodworth, MD, FACS "Maryland Brain Tumor Research: Updates and New Directions"
Thu, March 9 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Jesse Stokum, MD, PhD; PGY-4 "Mechanisms of Peripheral Nerve Injury and Regeneration"
Thu, March 16 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD "Surgery Alone Is Not Enough - ENRICH-PLUS"
Thu, March 23 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Bizhan Aarabi, MD, FRCSC "New Concepts in SCPP Measurement"
Thu, March 30 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD "M&M"

APRIL GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, April 6 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Abdul Kareem Ahmed, MD, SM; PGY-5
Thu, April 13 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Kris Kahle, MD
Thu, April 20 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Nicole Wenger, MD, MBA; PGY-3
Thu, April 27 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

HOLIDAYS

- 3/1 - National Essential Tremor Awareness
- 3/1 - National Women's History Month
- 3/3 - National Employee Appreciation Day
- 3/8 - International Women's Day
- 3/13 - Brain Awareness Week
- 3/17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 3/17 - Match Day!
- 3/19 - Certified Nurses Day
- 3/22 - Ramadan Begins
- 3/25 - National Physician's Week
- 3/26 - Epilepsy Awareness/Purple Day



HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?



We are looking for stories, achievements, heroics, tidbits, and fun stuff to feature in *In the Loupes* and to share within University of Maryland and our surrounding communities. If you are interested in writing a column or want to share what type of news you want to hear more, feel free to email at rcmcgowan@som.umaryland.edu

If you would like to submit your news via the Neurosurgery News Portal, scan the QR code or copy and paste the link below into your browser.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY NEWS PORTAL!](#)



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

