

## General Psychiatry



**Luke Cantu** studied biochemistry and literature at Rice University, and then pursued medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. He conceptualizes mental health as the “factor that determines whether a patient can...not just survive but thrive,” and his mission is to “help return something precious to people: their psychological resilience.” He was the Health Equity and Justice Liaison for 4 years in medical school, where he skillfully brought together disparate viewpoints to increase awareness about health disparities and improve health equity. He also served as the LMSA outreach chair, been a guest lecturer on HIV, and developed mentorship programs for pre-medical and medical students. Luke has a profound commitment to service and improving access for marginalized populations.



**Pratima Gangupantula** completed a bachelor’s degree in biology, followed by an MPH at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and a medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She served in the Appalachia Health Corps through the Americorps program as a rural community health worker. She also worked at the Unlocked Program where she helped connect individuals just released from jail to medical, psychiatric, and social services and her Advanced Directives educational project where she developed and delivered presentations about advanced care planning in the community. In her work, she brings “a holistic perspective, recognizing that healing lies in both medical support and human connection.”



**Mohammad Khan** completed a bachelor's degree in biomedical science and entomology at Texas A&M University and a joint master's in public health and medical degree at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, with a distinction in community health. He was elected to both Alpha Omega Alpha and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He describes that "psychiatry is the medicine of presence," and believes that "healing begins with being seen." He has served as the screenings chair for the annual United to Serve Health Fair, worked as the education coordinator for health outreach work in Guatemala, and participated in quality improvement of a cancer prevention program at MD Anderson.



After receiving his undergraduate degree in philosophy from Rice University, **Bilial Rehman** went on to pursue a master's in religion from Harvard University. He then enrolled at UT Southwestern for medical school. As a Gold Humanism Honor Society member, he has been involved in medical humanities work via community organizations, literary publications of medical students, and peer support networks. He developed an elective in humanities and a pre-clerkship experience for medical students to shadow chaplains. As an Albert Schweitzer fellow, he designed and implemented health screenings for refugee communities. "Psychiatry empowers me to care deeply about patients, serve those who are systematically neglected, and leverage my humanities background to think creatively about the intersection of mental illness and society."



**Isabel Kilroy** earned her undergraduate degree in cognitive sciences and medical humanities from Rice University before pursuing her medical training at McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. With a strong interest in geriatric and cultural psychiatry, she was selected as an American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) Scholar and has demonstrated a sustained commitment to caregiver and older adult mental health through research and advocacy. As an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, she developed an art and storytelling workshop series supporting Filipino nurses facing pandemic-related burnout. She reflects, “I see psychiatry as a practice that welcomes people in their most vulnerable moments and validates the stories that shape their suffering.”



**Benita Lalani** earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and biology from the University of Houston before pursuing her medical training at the University of Texas Medical Branch John Sealy School of Medicine. She has founded her medical school’s CAP interest group and contributing to multiple peer-reviewed publications in the field. Her innovative research examining cultural media portrayals of mental health earned national recognition, including selection for an APA press briefing. Deeply committed to service, she volunteered over 200 hours at a student-run free clinic and provided care to refugees in Jordan. She reflects that “psychiatry is shaped by culture and research can bridge clinical care with the narratives that influence mental health,” while striving to expand access for underserved populations.



**Morgan Motakef** earned her undergraduate degree in biochemistry and Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin before pursuing her medical training at Baylor College of Medicine. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to education, advocacy, and advancing care for vulnerable populations through her work in research and community engagement. Her scholarship includes work on suicidality in children with autism spectrum disorder, translating emerging evidence into resources for both clinicians and families. She has also served as a dedicated educator through programs supporting formerly incarcerated women and perinatal patients, emphasizing communication, trust, and patient empowerment. She reflects that “psychiatry weaves medicine with therapy and diagnosis with dialogue to bring healing that is both clinical and deeply human,” grounding her commitment to compassionate, connected care.



**Sheridan “Sher” Scott** attended Leigh University for neuroscience and will graduate from the University of Kansas School of Medicine with Alpha Omega Alpha honors. While in medical school, she was involved in student government as well as peer support and mentoring groups. She volunteered in student-run free clinics at both a local high school and in the greater Kansas City area. As chapter leader of the KUSOM branch of the Kern National Network, Sher developed curriculum on professional identity and student coaching models that focused on the promotion of flourishing in healthcare. She comes into residency with a wish to “serve diligently and compassionately in a manner worthy of a patient's "greatest wealth" being in my care.”



After completing her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and a master's in biomedical science, **Courtni Sims** entered medical school at Howard University, where she will graduate with Alpha Omega Alpha Honors. She mentored pre-medical students through the local chapter of the Student National Medical Association. She was co-president of her medical school's psychiatry student interest group, and vice chair for wellness in the student government association. Courtni participated in community outreach events, helped design a wellness space at a local high school, and volunteered at a senior living center. Courtni describes psychiatry as "a partnership, a shared effort between the patient and me, where trust is built gradually and each piece of progress is placed with care and intention."



**Jennifer Ude** obtained her bachelor's degree in neuroscience and psychobiology from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. She then pursued a master's in biomedical science from Vanderbilt University before enrolling in medical school at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine – Detroit Campus. She was chapter president of her medical school's psychiatry student interest group and national research chair for the American Medical Women's Association. She also served as an admissions ambassador for MUS CHM, led peer support groups for medical students and first-generation Nigerian Americans, and volunteered at a local women's resource center. She is drawn to psychiatry "for the development of longitudinal patient relationships, biopsychosocial influences on mental health, and the interplay of psychotherapy and pharmacologic therapy."



**Megan Ungerman** received their undergraduate degrees in biology and women's studies from Dartmouth College. They will graduate from UT Southwestern Medical School with AOA honors. Megan is also a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS), an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, and co-president of PRIDE at UTSW. As a GHHS member, they developed peer support groups for first year medical students during their anatomy course. They volunteered at the local student-run free clinic and partnered with local LGBTQ+ organizations to develop a healthy relationships curriculum for youths and teens. They also developed a small group ethics curriculum for the psychiatry clerkship. Megan notes "I found deep satisfaction in how psychiatrists connect with those who are in need of healing."

### **Child Psychiatry Track**



**Cheyenne Grubbs** received her undergraduate degree in business from the University of Texas at Austin before starting medical school at UT Southwestern where she was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. She served as President of the UTSW chapter of the Association of Native American Medical Students, as well as a National Board Member where she fostered interprofessional collaboration with allied health professions. She received a Dr. June Jackson Summer Fellowship at Columbia University to research the relationship between mental health symptoms and feelings of erasure and invisibility in Native youth. In embracing our field she wrote, "If the foundation of this field is vulnerability, connection, and a desire to truly understand another person's experience, psychiatry is consequently everywhere."

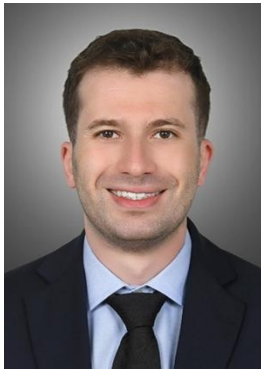


**Aymun Razzak** was a psychology major at the University of Texas at Dallas, before pursuing her medical degree at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and selected for an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, she led Street Rounds, organized Mental Health First Aid Training for the community and served as Lead Volunteer for the Migrant Health Initiative. She has been a co-author on a children’s book about mental health, *Ollie the Owl Finds His Wings*, and first author on a paper on access to care in the *Journal of American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. Her “goal is to be a psychiatrist who listens not only to what is said but to what is withheld, responding with clarity and compassion.”



**Mackenzie Smiter** studied psychobiology for her undergraduate degree at University of California Los Angeles before attending Baylor College of Medicine. She has done research with the Texas Youth Depression & Suicide Research Network on benchmarks for adolescent depression and presented this work at the Association for Medicine and Psychiatry. At the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry she presented her work on anxiety treatment response in children and adolescents. Her work as a preschool mentor with Small Steps led to founding and directing a service partnership with BCM, while also creating and leading a Women’s Bible Study and Support Network for medical students. She is drawn to psychiatry as “it demands precise diagnosis and psychotherapy, and also relentless advocacy across systems for true recovery.”

## Research Track



**Onur Memetoglu**, a native of Turkey, completed his bachelor's degree in psychology at Koc University and his medical degree at Koc Universitesi Tip Fakultesi. Onur cared for victims of the 2023 earthquake in Turkey while completing an internship in emergency medicine. He is currently a clinical research fellow at McLean Hospital, where he has studied dysregulation in cellular metabolism in schizophrenia and has published his work in Molecular Psychiatry and Biological Psychiatry. He founded the Association for Supporting Contemporary Life, a group of musicians who perform benefit concerts to raise money for charitable organizations in Turkey. He is drawn to psychiatry because our field “holds space for both the measurable and the mysterious” where our challenge lies in integrating “protocols and personhood.”



**Arash Rahmani** completed his bachelor's degree in psychology at Payam Noor University and his medical degree at Iran University of Medical Sciences School of Medicine, followed by work as an emergency physician in Iran. He is currently a postdoctoral at the University of Minnesota, utilizing neuroimaging and transcranial magnetic stimulation to study substance use disorders. In 2025, Arash gave an oral presentation at the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. He cofounded Behbood Medical Inc, an organization focused on promoting health among those in the Iranian diaspora. Through his residency training, Arash looks forward to “becoming a knowledgeable, compassionate psychiatrist and to making the world more humane, one clinical encounter at a time.”

## Rural and Public Mental Health Track



**Lucia Conlon** earned her undergraduate degree in exercise science from The University of Texas at Arlington before attending Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Shreveport, Louisiana where she was elected to membership in Sigma Sigma Phi. As a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) as she worked closely with children with autism and their families before medical school. She worked during medical school as a crisis text volunteer for people experiencing acute psychiatric crises. Lucia finds that, “No other field values the importance of connection quite like psychiatry, where even the smallest sparks of interest can completely transform the encounter,” and she hopes to find those sparks in her future patients to “reclaim their truest selves through a balance of therapy, medicine, and connection.”



**Krystal Morton** received her undergraduate degree in neuroscience from the University of Texas at Dallas before pursuing medical education and a master’s in public health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo. As a volunteer EMT she encountered numerous psychiatric emergencies and developed training for EMT response during psychiatric emergencies. Her leadership roles included President of Mentors in Medicine, supporting premedical undergraduates, and Coordinator for the Rural Student Health Sciences Mentorship Program, for underserved high school students. She has also served as President of the Student Senate and was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Krystal believes that “being a physician means understanding both what your patients need medically and emotionally... [and plans to work on] creating a bridge between the two.”

## Psychiatry/Neurology Combined Program



**Ruta Uttarkar** obtained a bachelors in neuroscience and psychology at University of Texas at Dallas before medical school at UT Southwestern. Ruta has researched post-stroke cognitive impairment, volunteered and was President at the Union Gospel Mission Shelter student-run-free clinic and Communications Director for the Patient Navigator Program. She also co-founded an institutional chapter of Academy Health to promote health equity. She trained in Bharatanatyam dance with 150+ performances internationally and has co-authored a book chapter on using traditional dance as a tool for humanizing clinical language in medical education. She enters combined training hoping “to honor both the neurologic and psychiatric dimensions of illness and turn bedside insights into research and systemic change.”



**Thiago Da Silva Paranhos Pereira** attended the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) Faculdade de Medicina in Brazil followed by practicing as a family medicine physician. Currently, he is completing a postdoctoral research fellowship at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital. His research projects included TMS in primary progressive aphasia and structural MRI to predict progression to dementia in early onset Alzheimer's disease. He has presented the results of this work at the American Neuropsychiatric Association annual meeting and the Alzheimer's Association International Conference. He joins our team with the viewpoint that “combined training would provide me with the breadth necessary to diagnose and care for patients whose conditions cross traditional specialty boundaries.”

## Psychiatry/Medicine Combined Program



**José Bermúdez** attended Florida International University as an undergraduate before studying at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine whose work is grounded in a deep commitment to advancing culturally concordant care for Latinx and underserved communities. As a native Spanish speaker, he has expanded access to both medical and psychiatric services through his roles in UNC’s student-run free clinics while mentoring junior trainees. José notes, “I hope to be the kind of physician my grandfather was to his community—someone who welcomes every patient, listens fully, and honors their whole story.” Through his integrated lens, he aims to empower patients with the tools to navigate both medical and psychological challenges, advocating for care that is accessible, holistic, and rooted in dignity.



**Michael Roth** is a graduate of the University of Central Florida in art history and biomedicine and is now completing his studies at the UCF College of Medicine, where he earned multiple honors and developed a strong commitment to patient-centered, context-driven care. As Co-Director of the SHIELD harm-reduction clinic, he expanded HIV testing access and deepened his dedication to serving vulnerable populations. His work in quality improvement at the Orlando VA and leadership in Arts in Medicine reflect his belief in addressing both medical and psychosocial factors that shape health. He shared, “My background in both medicine and the arts has taught me that every patient encounter is a snapshot—but to provide meaningful care, we must understand the full story behind it.”

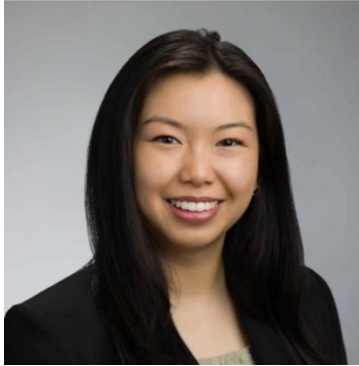
## Triple Board



**Katalina Acevedo** received her undergraduate degree at Barnard College in art history and psychology. She obtained a master's degree in education at Relay Graduate School of Education and served in Teach for America before beginning medical school at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School where she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. She established the UT Southwestern chapter of Health Career Collaborative (HCC), a near-peer outreach program in which medical students and residents from underserved communities serve as mentors. She "hopes to be an early presence: helping young people and their families understand the forces at play, addressing challenges before they calcify, and fostering the resilience that allows them to grow not only in health, but in who they hope to become."



**Kevin Etter** received his degree in molecular biology and psychology from the University of California-Berkeley before pursuing his medical degree at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Prior to medical school, he was a biology and environmental science teacher for underserved students in Teach for America. He also served as a counselor in a residential care facility that helped shape his conceptualization of how to care for children comprehensively. During medical school, he volunteered at the Dallas Child Advocacy Clinic and participated in research examining antipsychotic prescribing disparities in foster care populations in Texas. He wrote, "I hope to be a member of care teams for populations where interplay between physical and mental health needs is not the exception, but the rule."



After attaining her degree in music and neuroscience at The University of Pennsylvania, **Courteney Ly** matriculated at Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School where she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. During medical school, she has been an active volunteer serving as a student presenter for the RIOT (Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers) project, which aims to educate community members on the current state of the opioid crisis and volunteering for Empathetic Ears, a program where students support hospitalized patients with empathetic conversation. For Courteney, Triple Board allows the chance “to become a versatile provider for patients with both psychiatric and medical complexities, and to use my skills and experiences to fulfill the promises I made to my patients and myself.”



**Justin Tuschhof** studied chemistry, biology, and psychology at Southeast Missouri State University for his Bachelor of Science degree, before starting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. Prior to medical school he worked as a behavioral technician, providing applied behavioral analysis therapy to children and adults with neurodevelopmental disorders. During medical school, he served as founder and president of a Developmental Medicine & Dentistry chapter and served as President of the LGBTQ+ Health District Alliance. Justin looks forward to advocating for patients in collaborative environments: “Whether helping a child understand the loss of a loved one or helping a patient with complex chronic conditions succeed, I am committed to making a meaningful impact on the lives of those I serve.”