

Read Their Stories

Child and Adult Psychiatry Combined Track Residents



Emily Nguyen

Emily earned her BA in Human Biology at Stanford University and then pursued her MD at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and MBA at Texas Tech University Rawls College of Business. Her research work generated posters and papers on Leprosy, Cholera, and Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Symptoms (PANS), and her academic accomplishments led to induction to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Emily's service has been equally extensive and included mentoring through the Refugee Language Project, election as Secretary of the Pediatrics Interest Group, serving on the Executive Committee of the Breaking the Stigma Annual Conference, and volunteering at the Heal the City Free Clinic and the Lubbock Impact Free Clinic. Emily wrote of being

"fascinated by the body's built-in cellular mechanisms that initiate healing and adaptation" and her appreciation of the "challenges that each patient population faces ... the transition into motherhood for pregnant patients and the road to recovery for chronically ill children." She aspires to become "an empathetic psychiatrist who can provide her patients with the tools needed to overcome life's toughest challenges."



Vivianne Oyefusi

After earning both a BS in Biological Sciences and a BA in English at the University of Pittsburgh, Vivianne worked as a Healthcare Navigator for several years. She returned to University of Pittsburgh to begin her education at the School of Medicine, where she was recognized with election to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Vivianne's scholarly work resulted in first-author posters titled "Get S-M-A-R-T: Teaching Students Geriatric Health-Related Goal Setting" presented at the Society of General Internal Medicine and the American Geriatric Society. Her

service efforts included volunteering at the Birmingham Free Clinic and at the Light of Life Rescue Mission Soup Kitchen. Vivianne's work with the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) included serving as interview coordinator, Region VIII Parliamentarian, and Coordinator of the Regional Medical Education Conference. She was drawn to Child and Adolescent psychiatry as she was "struck by the ways small children integrate trauma into play and their subconscious awareness of how to live and survive in this world" and looks forward to "the opportunity to work with, and give back to, diverse populations who struggle to access care."



Swetha Ramamurthy

Swetha received her BA in Biology from University of Texas at Dallas, part of the UT PACT BA/MD program, and then matriculated into medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Her research in psychoneuroendocrinology resulted in a first author paper, “Association of Megestrol Use with the Development of New Psychiatric Diagnoses,” published in the *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. She has also pursued her Distinction in Research with work on psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES) treatment and outcomes. Swetha has been a leader as a peer mentor for beginning medical students, Manager for the Monday Clinic, representative for the Monday Clinic to the Free Clinic Committee, Committee Chair for United to Serve and Vice President of the

American Medical Women’s Association chapter. Swetha’s encounters with child psychiatry “were some of the most challenging, eye-opening, and incredibly rewarding experiences I have had.” An experience with a young patient who “felt completely alone and burdened with her fears showed me how powerful holistic care that addressed physical and mental health could be.

Research Track Residents



Ozlem Hokelekli

Ozlem earned both her MD and her PhD at Hacettepe Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi and then completed an internship at Hacettepe University Hospitals and several years of residency at Ankara University Hospitals. Her leadership has been evident in selection as MD/PhD student representative to the Hacettepe Board of Medical Faculty Promotion and co-founder of the Ankara University Physician Well-Being Committee. Ozlem’s doctoral work led to first author poster presentations at the Society for Neuroscience (“FGF-AS Overexpression in Medial Prefrontal Cortex is Depressogenic”), the Annual Molecular Psychiatry Meeting (“The Effect of FGF2-antisense

(NUDT6) Overexpression on Contextual Memory”), and the Society for Biological Psychiatry (“Role of a Natural Antisense Transcript, FGF2-AS, in Affective Behavior.” She has since done work in autism research at the Carolina Institute of Developmental Disabilities and apraxia of speech at the Mayo Clinic. Ozlem aims to be “in the front lines to discover the neurobiological underpinnings of mental illness, and also to fight against stigma by improving its perception in society.”



Bryan Kromenacker

After graduating with an AS in Nursing from Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, Bryan worked as a Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit nurse for six years. He then completed his BS in Nursing and pivoted towards medicine, pursuing both his MD and his PhD in Psychology of Cognition and Neural Systems at University of Arizona. Bryan's research has generated first-author papers in *Psychosomatic Medicine* ("Vagal Mediation of Low-Frequency Heart Rate Variability During Slow Yogic Breathing"), *Dermatologic Therapy* ("Pain and Itch are Dual Burdens in Atopic Dermatitis") and *Dermatology* ("Augmented Intelligence in Dermatology: Fantasy or Future"). He has also presented at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons on "Elective

Clipping of Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms is Associated with Increased Postoperative Disease Burden." He has served as an undergraduate research mentor and a graduate teaching assistant. Bryan aspires to integrate "computational and information processing frameworks with clinical training experiences to help shine a light on the often invisible aspects of mental illness, revealing and amplifying the humanity of the patients under my care."

Rural and Public Mental Health Track Residents



Trisha Modi

Trisha studied Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then worked for several years as a finance manager for a hotel group and as a medical scribe. These experiences inspired her to pursue joint MD and MBA degrees at Texas Tech University, with a concentration in Health Organization Management. Trisha's capstone project involved research and advocacy to address human trafficking increases in West Texas and provide aid to the victims. She also served as sponsorship chair for Lubbock City Lights, Vice President of Finances for the Hindu Medical Students Association, co-founded a virtual tutoring service for the local county school district, and was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor

Society, where she was project leader for an elderly pen pal program. Her scholarly work has focused on use of QR-code technology to improve mental health literacy and service for under-served minority groups. Trisha's mission is "to serve populations disproportionately impacted by mental illness" by "empowering myself with the knowledge to not only address the medical concerns of my patients but also tackle and strategize against the significant economic barriers to mental healthcare."



Justin O'Brien

Justin graduated summa cum laude in Biology from the University of North Texas, but this was preceded by 8 years of active service in the US Army as a Combat Medic. He was deployed on the front-lines in Iraq and later in Afghanistan, where he went on missions, supervised new medics, and trained Afghan police in combat first aid. Upon his return Justin resumed college full-time at UNT while also serving three years in the Texas National Guard. He then began medical school at UT Southwestern, where he has served as the student representative on the Active Learning Committee, and done qualitative research on equine therapy for veterans. Justin's research resulted in a co-authored publication in *Social Work Research*. Psychiatry became his specialty when appreciating that "the main tools to use in psychiatry were your ears". Justin wrote that his time in the army taught him how to work under pressure, sometimes literally "under fire." He now looks forward to bringing this capacity in the service of the field of psychiatry and "the real need in the public sector for better articulated mental health."

Internal Medicine-Psychiatry Combined Residency Program Residents



Nathalie Abenzoza

After studying Linguistics and Anthropology for her BA from the University of Florida, Nathalie spent a year working in HIV/AIDS surveillance for the county health department. She then pursued her medical degree at Medical College of Wisconsin, where her compassionate care was recognized with election to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Nathalie's campus leadership was evident in roles as Internal Affairs Chair for Students for a National Health Plan, Community Outreach Chair for LGBTQ People in Medicine, and Social Chair for the American Medical Student Association. Her commitment to advocacy for Latinx communities and colleagues led to service as the Eyes of the Future Mentorship Program Coordinator through the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), the Health Policy Chair of the LMSA, and the MCW COVID-19 Latinx Response Team, which she helped to found. Natalie wrote that "with a pandemic, the health disparities have been amplified; advocacy and grass-roots efforts to support the community have become an even greater priority...In residency, I plan to specifically focus on mental health among at-risk populations ... and community engagement research."



Areej Ali

Areej attended Carnegie Mellon University for her BS degree in Biological Sciences and Psychology, and then spent several years in oncology research and as an AmeriCorps volunteer, before entering the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine for her MD and MPH degrees. Her scholarly work has ranged from a first author publication in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (“Grave Effects from Delays in Care of Thyroid Eye Disease”) to creating a project analyzing the cost-effectiveness of a needle exchange program, in the service of advocacy for legalization of such efforts. Areej’s commitment to service is reflected in her induction to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and her work supporting Syrian refugees through ANSAR of Pittsburgh and leading a collaboration with the medical school around COVID-19 education in Arabic. Her leadership roles included serving as the School of Public Health representative to the Graduate Education and Research Committee and the Social Compact Group. Through combined medicine and psychiatry training, Areej will “pursue my interest in comprehensive underserved care and refugee health – both in and out of the hospital.”

Neurology-Psychiatry Combined Residency Program



Enrique Chiu Han

Enrique received his medical degree from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Facultad de Medicina and has continued in a research position in their Institute of Neurobiology, leading the project “Dynamic Functional Connectivity in Heavy Cannabis Users during a Cannabis Cue-Reactivity Video” and presenting this work at the Organization for Human Brain Mapping. He has also worked in a multigroup collaboration developing genetic analyses of a twin registry and is co-author of a paper published in *Twin Research and Human Genetics*. The thread running through all his projects is an enthusiasm for utilizing math and data science “to find meaning in an ocean of information with multiple complex relationships.” He has shared this enthusiasm as the coach of a very successful team of elementary, junior high, and high school students representing the state of Queretaro at the Mexican Mathematical Olympiad. Enrique is pursuing combined training because “The brain and nervous system can break down in many ways ... that we do not have a model for. My goal as a clinician and a data scientist is to make sense of the multidimensional, and to transform that understanding into better care.”