

UT Southwestern Psychiatry 2022 Match

General Psychiatry



Kanwal Ahmed

Kanwal received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from University of Texas at Dallas where she was a McDermott Scholar, and then spent several years working as a medical scribe and studying classical Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Bayyinah Institute and the Qalam Institute. During medical school at UT Southwestern, she has been the Education Chair for the Islamic Medical Association and volunteered regularly at the ICNA Relief Clinic, a program based on Islamic teachings of compassion and service. Kanwal also gives her time to wash and shroud bodies at Rahma Funeral Home for those lacking family to provide this vital spiritual care, and she has taught a workshop to educate her fellow medical students about this process. In addition, she has been a group leader for numerous expeditions with the National Outdoor Leadership School. Kanwal will “strive to embody the qualities I saw in my mentors, namely an unwavering dedication to empowering my patients through competent care and a commitment to listening to my patients with empathy and understanding. “



Rachael Carstens

Rachael studied Biochemistry at Abilene Christian University for her Bachelor of Science. She then worked as an emergency department medical scribe before matriculating at Baylor College of Medicine. She has completed both the Medical Ethics Pathway and the Care of the Underserved Pathway during medical school and served as Events Coordinator for the Academic Medicine Interest Group. Rachael served in multiple leadership roles in the Creative Companions program at Texas Children’s Hospital. As a volunteer, a coordinator, and then a Service Learning Program Site Ambassador, she provided and organized opportunities for the respite of play to pediatric CPS cases. In recognition of her service, Rachel was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. As she approaches residency, Rachael is “grateful to enter a field which invites patients to share the most challenging aspects of their stories, thrives in genuine compassion, and reminds me of the privilege to walk alongside my patients for one chapter in their journey.”



Colin Goodman

Colin received his Bachelor of the Arts degree in Philosophy from the University of Dallas. He has attended McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston where he has completed the Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration. Colin served on the Student Committee on Professionalism and Ethics where he was a peer advocate during hearings and was the Excellence in Ethics Award Subcommittee Leader as well as the Defining Professionalism Subcommittee Co-Leader. In this latter role he guided the development of the medical school's first formal definition of professionalism. Colin has coauthored a paper in *Journal of Affective Disorders* on lipid levels and psychotic symptoms and was first author on a paper on patient autonomy published in *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. Colin's accomplishments are reflected in election to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. In reflecting on his mission in psychiatry, he wrote "Like literature, medicine gave me a new perspective on the plight of human frailty, what it means to live and die well, and how I could play a positive role in that narrative."



Brendalyn Iweh

After attaining her Bachelor of the Arts degree at Baylor University in Psychology, Brendalyn took a position as a healthcare consultant for Compass Professional Health Services. After several years she left this role to begin medical education at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. Brendalyn served as a Student Ambassador for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She also had numerous leadership roles in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) including coordinator of an elementary school mentorship program, co-coordinator of the Under-represented Minority Scholarship Gala, and Community Service Officer overseeing events including the Community Health Fair. In addition, Brendalyn was first author on a poster at the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting, describing the relation of gender and socioeconomic status on burnout of healthcare providers during the pandemic. Reflecting on her clinical experiences, she wrote that she "was humbled by the raw vulnerability of the stories I was awarded access to, and it is something I will never take for granted."



Benjamin Kannenberg

Ben received his Bachelor of the Arts degree in International Studies and Chemical Biosciences at the University of Oklahoma. After graduating, he began his medical studies at University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. As a medical student, he was elected as Class Representative to the Student Government and served as Secretary, Facilities Coordinator, and Deans Cup Co-Chair (organizing a benefit with the law school students to benefit the homeless). Ben worked as Clinic Coordinator for the MEDiC Mental Health Clinic, an interdisciplinary student-run at a local day shelter, where he had created educational materials for volunteers, provided continuity of care through volunteer transitions, and liaised with local community leaders and psychiatric providers. In recognition of these accomplishments, Ben was elected to both the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. In choosing this specialty, Ben discovered he “loved how the psychiatric framework of care maintained the data-driven, biologically-rooted mindset of medicine while centering the holistic, humanistic mindset that attracted me to medical school in the first place.”



Kireet Koganti

Kireet graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience. He then matriculated at Texas A&M College of Medicine where his extensive volunteerism has included work with indigent patients at Calvert Men’s Clinic at Union Gospel Mission and the Agape Clinic, mentoring college students in the Molding Doctors program, and supporting elderly patients through the Community Caregiver program. Kireet has developed his interest in healthcare policy as an elected Delegate from his medical school to the Texas Medical Association and through service on the Special Session Reference Committee, reviewing pandemic resolutions and policies for voting consideration. He was also selected as Student Appointee to the Dallas County Medical Society’s Physician Wellness Committee, which guides and supports physicians in recovery. Reflecting on his work in organized medicine, Kireet wrote “There is an immense need for psychiatric care, so I aspire to contribute my time, effort, and experience with healthcare policy to advocate for this vulnerable patient population.”



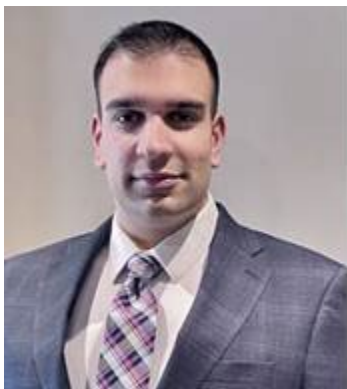
Nicole Larsen

Nicole studied Psychology and Biology for her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Oklahoma, and then began her medical education at the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine in Galveston where she has completed the Public Health Track. Nicole was selected as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow and with this support she created and coordinated the St. Vincent's Mobile Hepatitis C Program to offer prevention and treatment to patients in recovery from addictions. Her spirit of service also led her to volunteer through NAMI and the Galveston County Health District in pandemic response. Nicole also held multiple leadership roles, as President and then Senior Advisor, of the Student Psychiatry Organization. Nicole found in psychiatry the "challenge of moving between probing questions, affirming statements, and stretches of silence to assist patients in unfolding their stories. It is fulfilling to use my connection with patients to help them gain insight into their illness and encourage them in recovery."



Olivia Rater

Olivia received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative Literature with Advanced Studies in Spanish from Yale University and went on to work as a Writer's Production Assistant at the TV show Grey's Anatomy. After completing her pre-med courses at Arizona State University, while also working as a case manager in a forensic counseling practice, Olivia began her medical education at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. During medical school she volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and advocated for post-partum care for incarcerated women through the UW Health Media Center. She demonstrated her dedication to working with Spanish speaking patients at the Phoenix Children's Hospital and the MEDiC's Southside Clinic – a student-run service for uninsured patients. Olivia went on to create a new elective on mental health at La Clinica Latina. Impressed by "the power of sharing our stories" and "the medical complexities, the comorbidities that complicated healing", Olivia aspires to "integrate culturally competent care with my training and future practice."



Seyed Parsa Ravanfar

Parsa received his MD from Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in Iran, where he was President of the student body. He then worked for several years as a primary care physician and emergency room medical officer, providing care to nomadic tribes in an underserved rural region, before returning to Shiraz University as an emergency room physician. Parsa then began his PhD studies in Neuropsychiatry from the University of Melbourne in Australia, resulting in a first author paper on brain iron profile in neurodegenerative diseases published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. He is currently working in neuroimaging research as part of the Human Connectome Project - Early Psychosis (HCP-EP) at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, developing expertise in magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) and quantitative susceptibility mapping (QSM). Parsa aspires to a career as a clinician-scientist, reflecting that "working closely with people with neuropsychiatric conditions, I came to appreciate how the clinical practice of psychiatry feeds into new research enquiries, and how the science learned through research translates into better caring for patients."



Abibat 'Tobi' Saliu

After attaining her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of North Texas, Tobi began her medical education at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. Her extensive leadership at her medical school includes serving as a student member of the Admissions Committee and as the Board of Regents' appointed student member of the TTUHSC Presidential Search Committee. Tobi was elected President of the Student Government Association and her accomplishments included facilitating the Future Healthcare Professionals Experience workshop for the local community and the Student Holiday Extravaganza, which raised money for Lubbock's Family Promise and Ronald McDonald's House. She has been motivated to develop expertise in women's mental health and has completed the Texas Tech Apprenticeship Program in women's health, as well as the online training of the National Curriculum in Reproductive Psychiatry. Tobi's aspiration is to "connect with underserved populations ... and advocate for patients' mental wellbeing". She is excited to train in "perinatal psychiatry at a system that is a model for public hospital obstetrical care."



Brittany Turner

Brittany attended the University of Texas at Austin where she earned her Bachelor degree in Biochemistry and Psychology. She then spent a year as a patient care technician and health unit coordinator in Amarillo, before coming to Dallas to begin medical school at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She has done qualitative research on the experience of disaster survivors with co-authored publications in *Psychopathology* and *Traumatology*, and a first-author paper in the *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work*. Brittany's leadership and service included roles as Vice President for the Southwestern Alliance Against Food Insecurity, and as a Peer Advocate through the Mental Health and Wellness Committee. In the latter role she was trained in mental health first aid to individually support fellow students and facilitate groups. She also made time to be a mentor through both the Southwestern Student Connection and the American Medical Women's Association. Brittany's mission is to "meet patients in their most vulnerable states, which requires special attention to their dignity and humanity" and to bring to them "humility and compassion."

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Psychiatry and Neurology Combined



Adam Dinoff

Adam received his Bachelor of Science degree in Life Sciences at Queens University and then completed a Master of Science at the University of Toronto in Pharmacology and Toxicology. He then spent several years as a research assistant at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center before he began his medical education at New York Medical College. He has served as Student Editor for the International Journal of Medical Students and was a leader in the Psychiatry and the Neurology Student Interest Groups. He has been first-author on papers in PLOS One, Brain and Behavior, Journal of Psychiatric Research and Journal of Affective Disorders, on topics including antidepressant effects of buprenorphine, the effect of exercise on neurotrophic factors in depression, and the involvement of plasma sphingolipids in coronary artery disease. Adam's accomplishments were recognized with selection to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He wrote that he hopes to bring an attitude of "humility and self-awareness" to his excitement "to dive deeper into the overlapping worlds of psychiatry and neurology".

Psychiatry and Internal Medicine Combined



Layne Jordan Genco

Layne received her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and Psychology from Northern Arizona University, before pursuing her medical degree at University of Arizona College of Medicine– Tucson. She will graduate with Distinction in Community Service, Distinction in Rural Health, and Distinction in Global Health. Early in medical school Layne served as Lead Coordinator for a student-run Mental Illness and Neuropsychiatric Disease Clinic and as the Outreach Coordinator for the American Medical Women's Association chapter. More recently she was co-founder of the Mental Health Matters Campaign for suicide prevention and founder of the "It's Not Okay to Say to Me" Campaign for equity and inclusion. Layne was inducted into both Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society. She is doing combined training because "it is impossible to isolate a patient's symptoms as either physical or psychological.... By training in both internal medicine and psychiatry I hope to play a part in effectively bridging the treatment gap for rural, underserved, and marginalized populations."



Kayla Murphy

After attaining her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Baylor University, Kayla matriculated at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She held numerous leadership roles at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic including Clinic Coordinator and Medicine At-Large Chair. Her scholarly work built on these experiences and included poster presentations at the Society of Student Run-Free Clinics Conference and the AMA Research Challenge, and serving as Assistant Editor at the *Journal of Student-Run Clinics*. Kayla has also served as Co-Chair of the Mental Health Services Committee for NAMI Ramsey County and Co-Chair of the Aging Studies Interdisciplinary Group. Reflecting these contributions, Kayla was inducted into both the Gold Humanism Honor Society and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Having observed the challenges in care resulting from problems that overlap specialty boundaries, she aspires to “bridge gaps in the access to, and quality of, care and increase patients’ understanding of health especially for older adults with many chronic medical and psychiatric conditions.”

Psychiatry Research Track



Nabila Haque

Nabila studied Biomedical Engineering at Duke University for her Bachelor of Science degree, before beginning the MD/PhD program at University of California, Irvine. During medical school she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Plexus Journal of Arts and Humanities and president of the Crescent Clinic, a culturally sensitive free care program for immigrants. Interested in “how cells decided their fates”, her doctoral work focused on using chromatin immunoprecipitation and sequencing to identify a specific mRNA processing factor that binds to the promoters of thousands of genes that may impact cancer development. At the same time, Nabila was founder of the Women in MSTP Committee, and a Religious Studies Teacher and Meditation Facilitator at the Islamic Center of Irvine. When she returned to the clinic, she was founder and chair of the Spirituality in Medicine Interest Group. Nabila looks forward “to understanding mood disorders at a molecular level” and serving “women going through pivotal transitions in their life – puberty, childbirth, and menopause – when mental illness may manifest.”



Thomas Pak

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University, Thomas matriculated at University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine to pursue his joint MD/PhD. His dissertation investigated mouse models of anxiety and intellectual disability and the impact of Lithium, resulting in first-author publications in *PLOS Genetics* and *PLOS One* and posters at the American Society of Human Genetics and Society for Neuroscience. Thomas' national leadership experiences include a seat on the National Board of Medical Examiners and chair of the National Action Committees on Wellness/Student Life and Medical Education at the American Medical Student Association. Locally his many roles included Vice President of the Graduate and Professional Student Government, chair of the Advocacy Committee, and President of the school's chapter of the Iowa Medical Society. Thomas was selected into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and wrote that "Grounded in my research, advocacy, and lived experiences, I hope to continue advancing medicine as an academic psychiatrist."

Rural and Public Mental Health Track



Sun Jeong Choi

Sun received his Bachelor of the Arts degree in History from the University of California Los Angeles. He spent a year working as a litigation clerk in anticipation of a future career as a public defender before he discovered that his mission would be to pursue social justice through medicine. After fulfilling premedical requirements at the Harvard Extension School and working as a clinical research associate at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Sun began medical school at Texas A&M. He has served in multiple offices, including chapter president, in the Christian Medical Association and through this role twice led a mission trip in collaboration with a local church in Lima, Peru to meet primary care needs. He has also served as Class Historian and volunteered in the Agape Clinic and in the OurCalling Homeless Ministry. He is currently completing a Pegasus Fellowship in gospel-based leadership and is eager to "serve vulnerable populations while furthering policies and research to expand mental health care access both locally and globally."



Pavithra Wickramage

After achieving her Bachelor of Science from University of Texas at Dallas, Pavithra earned her Master of Science at University of North Texas Health Science Center. She is now completing her DO on the Rural Scholars Track and her Master of Public Health degree at UNTHSC. Pavithra has been the medical student representative to the Texas Medical Association's Committee on Reproductive, Women's and Perinatal Health and has been the Programming Chair for Women in Medicine (WIM) Standing Committee at the American Medical Association's medical student section. She was President of the Medical Public Health Initiative where she led Domestic Violence Awareness Week and has been a policy intern at Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County, working on raising awareness of trauma-related mental illness and the need for expansion of mental health services. In addition, she was selected to participate in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Student Epidemiology Program. She aspires to be a "physician who continues to be committed to advocacy and shape healthcare policy to encourage mental wellbeing."

Child and Adult Psychiatry Track



Courtney Chineme

Courtney studied Biology for her Bachelor of Arts degree at University of North Texas. She then worked as a compounding pharmacy assistant and an emergency room scribe before beginning medical school at Rowan University Osteopathic School of Medicine. Courtney has been a leader and founder of the Black Collective at Rowan School of Medicine, serving as mentor, E-Board member, and Fundraising Chair. She has also been Intersectionality Chairperson of the Allies in Medicine Group to promote LGBTQIA+ health awareness and worked to establish a virtual Racism in Medicine Annual Conference for over two hundred attendees. In recognition of her service and compassion, Courtney was elected by peers and faculty to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Courtney's goal is "to be a child psychiatrist that is dedicated to advocacy and provides structurally competent and compassionate care". Her mission of structural competence will allow her to become "a cultural psychiatrist that facilitates development, enhances function and destigmatizes mental illness within the Pan-African community."



Hannah Gomez

After studying Biology for her Bachelor of Science and the Arts at the University of Texas at Austin, Hannah returned to El Paso to work at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute promoting education for senior citizens. She left this work to begin medical school at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. Hannah was selected for the Scholars in Primary Care program focusing on rural health disparities and was a Program Tutor and Peer Mentor for the Joint Admissions Medical Program. Her leadership roles included Teaching Assistant Captain at the Medical Student Teaching Center, and Founder of the Medical Student Peer Guidance Group. In light of these accomplishments Hannah was elected to both the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. During medical school Hannah “found that I was inherently an advocate for so many Latino(a) patients who felt that mental health was not a priority.” She aspires to “be a psychiatrist that emphasizes patient education, while also encouraging my patients past the hesitancy of seeking mental healthcare.”



Tasha Vazquez

Tasha attended the University of Nevada, Reno for her Bachelor of Science in Biology and then worked for several years as a Behavioral Health Social Services Provider at the Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services, coaching and supporting youth with emotional disturbances. She continued this work during her first several years in medical school at the University of Nevada, Reno. Tasha was one of two elected students to the Medical Education Curriculum Committee and then was appointed by the medical school to serve on the Curriculum Renovation Committee. She also founded the Culinary Medicine Curriculum Committee and served as Co-Chair of the Psychiatry Curriculum Improvement Committee. In addition, Tasha has been a Refugee Resettlement Mentor for the Northern Nevada Internal Center for the past five years. Tasha wrote that she has “learned the impact a community can have on one person, but also the impact one person can have on a community.” She is determined that “advocacy for the underserved, underrepresented, and disenfranchised must be at the center of my life’s work as a psychiatrist.”