



Mass General Brigham

**Spaulding Rehabilitation**

# 28th Annual Graduation & Awards Ceremony

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Sunday, June 4, 2023



**HARVARD**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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The Faculty and Staff of the  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital  
Harvard Medical School  
Department of Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation congratulate  
our Resident and Fellow graduates  
and wish them the best in their  
future endeavors.



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# Welcome to the Graduation and Awards Ceremony

## Resident Award Ceremony

Rookie of the Year Award

Walter R. Frontera, MD, PhD Award

Manuel J. Lipson, MD Award

Academic Excellence Award

Chief Resident Award

Resident Excellence in Teaching Award

Resident Humanism Award

## Presentation of Graduates

### **Presentation of Fellowship Diplomas**

Sports Medicine Fellowship

Spinal Cord Injury Fellowship

Brain Injury Medicine Fellowship

Pediatric Rehabilitation Fellowship

### **Presentation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Diplomas**

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# Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

## Class of 2023

### Fellows

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#### Sports Medicine

**Stephanie DeLuca, MD, MS** grew up in the Bronx and Yonkers, New York. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Cell and Molecular Biology as well as a minor in History from Binghamton University. She then completed her master's degree in Basic Medical Sciences at New York Medical College. After that, she spent a year working as a Mental Health Worker on an adolescent psychiatric unit. She returned to New York Medical College for medical school and graduated in 2018. She completed her internship at Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut and residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital where she served as Chief Resident from 2020-2021. She then stayed at Spaulding for her Sports Medicine Fellowship with a particular interest in pediatric/adolescent athletes. Upon completion of fellowship, she will be joining the Division of Sports Medicine at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital where she will be working closely with the Massachusetts General Hospital Pediatrics Orthopedic Department to care for pediatric/adolescent athletes.

"I would like to thank my husband, family, and friends for their endless love and support over the years. I would not be here today without you. A special thank you to Dr. McInnis, Dr. Borg-Stein, Dr. Zafonte, and the faculty of Sports Medicine at Spaulding and Massachusetts General Hospital for trusting in my vision and their unrelenting support and mentorship over the years. Last but not least, thank you to my co-fellow Dr. Kayle Noble-Taylor, for her constant collaborative support and friendship; couldn't have asked for a better person to share this experience with."

**Kayle Noble-Taylor, DO** grew up in Traverse City, Michigan. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Human Physiology with a minor in Bioethics at Michigan State University. She completed her medical school training at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She remained in Michigan for her Transitional Year internship at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She went on to complete her Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation residency training at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota before starting her Sports Medicine Fellowship at Spaulding. She plans to return to Michigan at the completion of her fellowship to start her career as a Sports Medicine Physiatrist at Corewell Health, affiliated with Michigan State University.

"I would like to thank my husband, David, for being my rock throughout my training. I am grateful for my daughter, Virginia, who has brought so much joy and perspective to my life. I would like to thank my family and friends who have supported my dream to become a sports medicine physician from day one, without them I would not be here today. I would also like to thank my program leadership, Dr. McInnis and Dr. Borg-Stein, my co-fellow and friend Stephanie Deluca, along with the countless mentors I have had throughout my training for inspiring me and shaping me into the physician I am today."

## **Spinal Cord Injury**

**Fareea Khaliq, MD** grew up in Farmington Hills, Michigan. After obtaining an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at Wayne State University, she continued at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan. After graduating in 2018, she completed her internship in Grand Rapids, Michigan before moving back to Detroit for PM&R Residency at the Detroit Medical Center – Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. She moved to Boston to complete a fellowship in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. Upon graduation, she will join on as an SCI physician at the VA Healthcare System of Boston.

"I would like to thank my parents and siblings for their continued love and support throughout my years of medical education and training. I am also thankful to all my mentors from fellowship along with my extraordinary co-fellow for this amazing year."

**Andrew Tsitsilianos, MD** was born in Worcester, MA, where he pursued a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Worcester Polytechnique Institute, prior to receiving a Certificate in Health Careers from the Harvard Extension School and a Master of Biomedical Sciences from the Commonwealth Medical College in Pennsylvania. He went on to graduate from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, after which he conducted his residency at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in New York. He came back to Boston to complete his clinical fellowship at the Spaulding/Harvard/VA Boston Healthcare program in Spinal Cord Injury and Dysfunction Medicine as it offered the opportunity for person-centered continuity with complex patients while becoming a leader in technophysiatry and cybernetic rehabilitation. He is excited to be joining the team at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in patient care and research to help usher a technological evolution in SCI.

"I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to the VA and Spaulding administrations, as well as MGB and Harvard, for creating this wonderful playground to enhance my experience in Spinal Cord Injury. I would like to highlight the time and efforts taken by Dr. Sabharwal in ensuring that our experience was excellent. I would like to thank Rita, Jen, Katie, May, and Beatriz for their help navigating the various systems in which we work and learn. I would like to thank Drs. Doan, Hess, Liao, Lowry, O'Connor, Sohn, Solinsky, and Willenberg, as well as all the fabulous fellows, residents, and researchers at Spaulding and the VA. I would especially like to thank my co-fellow, Fareea Khaliq, for her listening ear and constant support. Finally, I would like to thank my parents and my brother for their love and presence on this long journey I have taken."

## **Brain Injury Medicine**

**Audrie Chavez, MD, MPH** grew up in Brownsville, Texas. After graduating high school, she attended Johns Hopkins University where she received her undergraduate degrees in Biology and Spanish. She then returned to Texas where she received a Master of Public Health with a major in epidemiology from the University of Texas School of Public Health. After that, she worked at University Medical Center in Las Vegas where she supported community efforts in injury prevention research related to motor vehicle crashes. She subsequently moved to Dallas, TX where she received her medical doctorate from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and completed her Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation training. She then moved to Boston to complete her Brain Injury Medicine Fellowship here at Spaulding. After graduation, she will be joining the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio Texas as an assistant professor.

"I would like to thank my husband and my parents for their sacrifices, love and support throughout the very long journey leading up to today. I am also thankful for all the Spaulding attendings who have taken the time to have me on their service or in their clinic over the past year. You have all shared your knowledge, skills, passion, and life advice which has been invaluable. Thank you to my co-fellow Courtney who has been a great sounding board, friend, and supporter this year and special thanks to Dr. Shih, Dr. Iaccarino, and Dr. Zafonte for all their time and leadership in this amazing program."

**Courtney Gilbert, MD** grew up in Massachusetts and received her undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She earned her medical degree at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. She completed an internal medicine internship at UMASS Medical Center. She then completed Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency training as well as Spinal Cord Injury Medicine fellowship training at Rutgers/Kessler in New Jersey. She returned home to complete her Brain Injury Medicine fellowship training here at Spaulding. Following graduation, she will be staying on with Mass General Hospital/Spaulding where she will focus her career on neurorehabilitation consults.

"I'd like to thank Dr. Iaccarino, Dr. Shih, Dr. Zafonte and all of my residency/fellowship attendings for their teaching and mentorship during this tremendous educational endeavor. I also want to thank my co-fellow, Audrie, who will undoubtedly go on to do great things in Texas. I am forever grateful to my entire family for their encouragement throughout my lengthy medical training. I would like to especially thank my husband, Trevor, and my son, Leo, for their motivational support, love, and laughter along the way."

## **Pediatric Rehabilitation**

**Jennifer Wu, MD PhD** earned her MD and PhD from the University of California Irvine School of Medicine. She completed her internship at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and her physical medicine and rehabilitation residency at the UC Irvine Medical Center. She is looking forward to joining the Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine department at Spaulding after graduation.

# Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Class of 2023

## Residents

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**Berkenesh Gebrekristos, MD** grew up in Francistown, Botswana and Cupertino, California. She attended the University of California, Irvine where she received her bachelors in biological sciences. She obtained her medical degree at the University of California, San Francisco, where she graduated with distinction. She completed her internship at Kaiser Oakland Medical Center before making the move across the country to start residency at Spaulding. Following graduation, Berky will be heading back to Northern California to complete the final leg of her medical training, pain medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco.

"Thank you to my husband, parents, brother and our family dogs. Your sacrifices have allowed me to live out my potential and your presence throughout this journey enriches my life in innumerable ways. Thank you to Spaulding for supporting me through my training, and all those I crossed paths with, especially my PGY crew, who have made these last few years exceptionally worthwhile."

**Lauren Hall, MD** grew up in Charlton, Massachusetts. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Brown University, where she concentrated in neuroscience. Before medical school, she spent two years in research studying gene therapy applications in Huntington's Disease. She attended University of Massachusetts Medical School and graduated in 2019. She stayed at UMASS to complete her internship, before coming to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital for her PM&R residency. She will be staying another year to complete a fellowship in Spinal Cord Injury medicine.

"I would like to thank my husband, family, and friends for their continued support, love, and patience throughout the ups and downs of my medical training. Thank you to my mentors for helping me achieve my academic goals and teaching me everything I know. I would like to give a special shout out to my residency class for all the laughs, support, and collegiality and for simply being the best class out there."



**Daniel Kendall Hussey, MD** grew up in South China, Maine. He graduated from Phillips Academy and went on to study Science, Technology, and Society as an undergraduate at Colby College. After college, he spent two years in research at the Harris Orthopaedic Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital. He attended medical school at Tufts University School of Medicine, Maine Track. He completed his transitional year internship at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital/Tufts Medical Center followed by residency at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. After graduation, he will work as an outpatient Physiatrist in the MaineHealth system at Mid Coast Hospital.

"I would like to thank my wife, daughter, family, friends, and cats for supporting me through medical school, residency, and everything else in life. I also want to thank my co-residents for being such an incredible group of people to work with. I am constantly inspired by all of you. Finally, I would like to thank the faculty and mentors I've worked with who instilled in me the ethos to first and foremost provide the best possible care for my patients."

**Bryan Le, MD** was born in Bethesda, MD and raised in Barrington, RI. After graduating Barrington High school, he attended Brandeis University, where he received his undergraduate degree in Economics. He worked in a Boston healthcare nonprofit for a year, and afterwards attended the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, where he received his medical degree in 2019. He trained in internal medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver, CO for his internship year before starting his residency at Spaulding. Following graduation, Bryan will be a general outpatient physiatrist at Montefiore Medical Center and an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

"I would not be here without the unconditional support from my Mom and Dad. I would not be here without my wonderful sister, Stephanie, and my brother-in-law, Billy, who continue to be the best role models for me. I am forever thankful for everyone at Spaulding who helped me discover the field and train here. I am forever blessed for my amazing residency class, who I consider to be my lifelong friends."

**Chinenye Christa Nnoromele, MD** grew up in Central Kentucky in the small town of Richmond. She left Kentucky to pursue her undergraduate education at Rice University in Houston, TX where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology. She then moved to be closer to home, and obtained her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She stayed on in that hospital system to complete her internship at University of Cincinnati Medical Center before moving to Boston for her PM&R residency at Spaulding. During her time here, Christa explored her interests in neurorehabilitation and upon graduation will be completing a fellowship in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab with hopes of focusing on women's and maternal health after spinal cord injury.

"I would first like to thank my husband, Aaron, for standing by my side. We have had a crazy time here in Boston and your love and support is what made this all possible. I would love to thank my family who is attending virtually. Although we are far away by distance, your support was always there. I would also like to say thank you to all the mentors, friends, peers, and colleagues I have made here in Boston. Because of all of you, it has been possible to achieve my goals and dreams, and I am so excited for these next steps. Finally, I would like to give a special shout out to my graduating PGY-4 class. Being so far away from home, all of you became more than just work colleagues. You all are family. It has been an honor to train here at Spaulding for the last three years."

**Sean Schowalter, MD** grew up in upstate NY around Albany, NY. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Electronic Media Arts and Communications at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. After working for a year in freelance graphic design, he returned to do a postbaccalaureate program in pre-med at the university of SUNY Albany. He then attended medical school at Boston University School of Medicine, graduating in 2019. Upon graduation, he completed his internship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center before arriving at Spaulding for residency. Following residency, Sean will be attending fellowship in Sports Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

He would like to thank his colleagues for being such an amazing group of people to work with, his Spaulding mentors for all of their teaching and advice, and most of all he would like to thank his wife, parents, and family for all of their support during this long and challenging journey.

**Alp Yurter, MD** grew up in Princeton Junction, NJ. He obtained his bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and then obtained his medical degree from Yale School of Medicine. After residency, he plans to relocate to Hamburg, Germany, catch up on sleep, and amongst other projects, become a professional painter.

"Thank you to Spaulding faculty and co-residents for providing a formative experience through your teaching and support."

