

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

Department of Psychiatry – Matched Residents 2008



Emily Aron, M.D. attended Cornell University for her undergraduate degree, majoring in *Human Development and Family Studies*, and Georgetown for her medical degree. She was awarded a NIMH Intramural Research Award in medical school to examine ADHD, and she has been published in the AACAP Journal on the topics of infant anxiety and maternal panic disorder. She also wrote a now published brief on Medicare Part D while working with the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved at Georgetown.



Joseph Cerimele, M.D. attended Case Western Reserve University for his undergraduate degree, majoring in both *Psychology and Biochemistry*. He attended the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine for his M.D. An advocate for social responsibility, he was president of the Physicians for Social Responsibility and has worked as an educator with both children and geriatric populations. He has one paper in review and one recently accepted for publication on metabolic syndrome, as well as a previous book review publication.



Ellen Goldstein, M.D. received a B.A. from Yale University, where she studied English and photography and spent a summer riding a bicycle across the United States to raise money and awareness for Habitat for Humanity. During medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, she completed a Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship, where she used neuroimaging techniques to study the biologic phenomena of remitted depression. She was awarded Teacher of the Year for tutoring first-year medical students in physiology, and she was awarded the Barbara Liskin Memorial Award for Excellence in Psychiatry. Ellen has interests in yoga, meditation, Traditional Chinese Medicine, and non-pharmacologic approaches to treating mood disorders. Ellen comes to Mount Sinai having transferred from the now-closed adult psychiatry program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in downtown Manhattan.



Kenneth Hung, M.D. attended Harvard for his undergraduate degree, majoring in *Biology*, and Cornell for his medical degree. He is interested in social justice and has dedicated himself to the study of and advocacy for marginalized subpopulations, including work with burn victim children and the visually-impaired. He has also studied and worked with several distinct refugee populations, including spending a research summer in Beijing on a Weill Cornell International Fellowship studying the Chinese pediatric healthcare system.



Mary LaLonde, M.D., Ph.D. attended Carnegie Mellon for her B.S. (Biological Sciences) and SUNY Stonybrook for both her M.D. and Ph.D. (Molecular and Cellular Biology). A member of the AOA, she has several publications and posters involving Phospholipase D, and she has been awarded two separate NIH scholarship awards. Currently her research has taken her into child psychiatry with Judith Crowell, M.D. She has also been involved with education for many years, including teaching at her medical school and developing curricula.



Teresa Lim, M.D. attended McMaster University for both her B.S. (in *Biochemistry*) and her Masters of Science (in *Medical Science: Hematology*). She attended Albert Einstein for her M.D. Her accomplishments range across disciplines, including research work in microbiology (which yielded two poster presentations), work as an author of a psychiatric case report submitted for publication, and two distinct roles in the publication of *USMLE Rx Step 1* (primary student authorship in Psychiatry Section and student editor in Biochemistry Section).



Mariana Markella, M.D. attended Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary for her M.D., after which she did a fellowship at Beth Israel Renal Research Institute. In 2007, she began working with Jeffrey Newcorn, M.D. in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division conducting research in ADHD and fMRI. She has been extremely productive in her role on this research team, assisting in all aspects of the research, from dealing with IRB protocols, recruitment, and screening to overseeing data analysis and submitting manuscripts.



Maria de las Mercedes Perez Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D. Born in Spain, Mercedes won a national prize for her high school studies, and first came to the United States for a summer course at UCLA. Her 6 year Medical School was at the Autonoma University of Madrid. There she developed a strong interest in research, and has pursued this both in Spain and in the USA. She completed her PhD studies at the Autonoma University, on biological markers of suicide, and has authored or co-authored over 20 publications in this area.



Panagiotis Roussos, M.D., Ph.D. attended the University of Crete for his MD, his Masters (Neurosciences), and his Ph.D. (Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics). His Ph.D. work was on the effect of genetic polymorphisms known to affect prepulse inhibition circuitry in schizophrenia. An accomplished researcher with several publications (including several in-press) in journals such as Biological Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology. In addition, he has been awarded several times for his academic achievements.



Eli Shalenberg, M.D. attended the University of California Berkeley, where he wrote his thesis on economic and political factors limiting access to HIV treatments in South Africa, and subsequently worked on a drug discovery project for Malaria. While in medical school at University of California San Diego he became fascinated by mental illness and the explanatory dualism offered by Psychiatry. He won an NIH Training Grant to assist with an fMRI study of depressed adolescents and later designed an educational resource for high risk youth. He is currently interested in forensic psychiatric issues related to dangerousness/recidivism and criminal responsibility. Eli originally matched into the adult psychiatry program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in downtown Manhattan, and upon that hospital's precipitous closure, he transferred his residency to Mount Sinai as a PGY-3.



Devendra Thakur, M.D. attended Pennsylvania State University his B.S. degree in Premedicine, and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine for his MD studies. At South Carolina he was extremely active in voluntary activities, including organizing and speaking for PsychSIGN, teaching on health issues in elementary and middle schools, and working as a Peer Advocate on mental health and substance abuse issues with his medical student colleagues. He is fluent in four languages.



Jessica Wiegand, M.D. attended Tulane University for her undergraduate degree in Neuroscience, and Louisiana State University School of Medicine for her M.D. Although she began in an M.D., Ph.D. track, hurricane Katrina destroyed years of her work, and so she had to abandon her Ph.D. She has been awarded many academic honors, including the Beta Beta Beta Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis in Biology and the Arnold Gerrall Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Neuroscience.



Amanda Wilson, M.D., J.D. attended Samford University for her B.A. (English Literature), Cumberland School of Law for her J.D., and NYU for her M.D. A member of the AOA, she has a short stint in research in ADHD and fMRI (leading to a publication in NeuroImage), as well as a demonstrated passion for volunteerism working with patients with AIDS, hepatitis, and underprivileged populations throughout the world (Russia, China, France, Vancouver). She has taught Law in China, and she has a strong interest in psychoanalytic literature.

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Jacob Appel, MD, JD

UNDERGRADUATE: Brown University, B.A. in English and American Literature, and History
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Dr. Appel is a medical ethicist, an attorney, a university professor, a journalist, and a writer of plays and short stories. He holds a JD from Harvard Law School and masters degrees in European History (Brown), American History (Columbia), and Creative Writing (NYU), all prior to beginning medical school. He is currently working on a PhD thesis on the history of American Medicine and Psychiatry (Columbia). While in medical school, he continued to teach bioethics at Brown and Columbia and published 25 works of fiction as well as papers in the field of bioethics. He has won the teacher of the year award at Brown as well as awards for his short stories and fiction.



Hansel Arroyo, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, B.S., with Honors in Biology
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Universidad Central del Caribe

Hansel originally matched into the adult psychiatry program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in downtown Manhattan, and upon that hospital's precipitous closure, he was able to transfer his residency position to Mount Sinai as a PGY-2. Hansel was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where he quickly developed a profound interest in psychiatry, human behavior, and the arts. Through an extensive history of community volunteer work with youth and the indigent, and leadership responsibilities spanning from his pre-undergraduate years through residency, he has exercised his ethics of kindness and sympathy. In medical school he served as his class Vice President and Psychiatry/Behavioral Medicine class Representative and Coordinator. He has participated in Grand Rounds presentations on the effects of dialysis on psychiatric illness, and as part of his personal pursuits has played starring theatrical roles as a member of the college theater group. He is bilingual in English and Spanish.



Drew Bianchi, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: State University of New York, at Albany, B.A. Psychology and Anthropology
MEDICAL SCHOOL: State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine

Following a longstanding curiosity about the mind, Dr. Bianchi has travelled the globe pursuing this knowledge. Combining interests in psychology and anthropology, he has studied abroad in the Madagascar rainforest, the Australian outback, and the rainforests of Northern Bolivia where he researched the behavioral ecology of monkeys. He has additionally pursued research on dysthymic disorder. His other interests have ranged from mentoring adolescents to accomplishments as musician.



Megan Crochet, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: The George Washington University, B.A. *magna cum laude* in American Studies
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Drexel University College of Medicine

Prior to medical school, Dr. Gould began her work in community service, most intensively with teenage mothers as well as with special-needs children. Her solid leadership ability combined with her interest in the emotional quality of the educational environment have led to her multiple teaching roles in medical school and her being recognized by the faculty as a Medical Scholar. She is interested in child and adolescent psychiatry.



Claudine Egol, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Binghamton University, B.S. in Accounting

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Creighton University School of Medicine, Nebraska

With a background in business, Dr. Egol has served in many leadership positions in medical school. She was elected vice-president and then president of the Creighton Medical Student Body, coordinator of the Honor Code Committee, and coordinator of multiple other medical school groups as well as community-based projects, including developing a program to provide influenza vaccines to underserved populations. She is interested in a career in academic psychiatry involving education and clinical supervision.



Kyle Lapidus, MD, PhD

Physician-Scientist Research Track

UNDERGRADUATE: Harvard University, B.A. *magna cum laude* in Biology / Mind, Brain, and Behavior

MEDICAL AND GRADUATE SCHOOL: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

At Harvard, Dr. Lapidus combined circadian behavior research with volunteer work for the homeless. Coming to Mount Sinai psychiatry residency's Physician Scientist research track, Dr. Lapidus earned his PhD at Einstein, where he furthered his interest in studying the basic biological correlates of how the internal and external environments influence thought and mood. He worked with Robert Singer on a RNA binding protein ZBP1, utilizing transgenic mice and tumor cell lines to investigate cell motility and metastasis. Additionally, he has worked in the laboratory of Eric Kandel, studying neuronal plasticity and the molecular bases of behavior, learning, and memory, again through the use of transgenic mice. He has several publications in leading journals.



Andrei Moroz, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Temple University, *magna cum laude* in Biological Anthropology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Temple University School of Medicine

In medical school, Dr. Moroz played leadership roles in multiple projects focusing on education, humanism in medicine, and the effects of the therapeutic relationship on patients' states of mind, clearly defining his interest in places where medicine and the humanities interact. He was crucial in helping to develop a curriculum for a new Medical Humanities Scholars Program, and his work is being used to obtain funding for the venture. Additionally, he was involved in the development of a center for Medical Humanities and Urban Bioethics.



Sanjay Patel, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Chicago, B.A. in Economics

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Dr. Patel has an impressive track record of community volunteer leadership and teaching responsibilities throughout his undergraduate and medical school careers. In addition to receiving grants to teach inner city children, as a co-director of the University of Chicago Student Teachers organization (a non-profit teaching body), he received the President's Award for Student Volunteer Services bestowed by Michelle Obama. He won Mount Sinai's Award for Outstanding Service to the medical school for his work with the admissions committee, as well as the school's Leadership Award and several awards for his poetry. His interest in child and adolescent psychiatry has been recognized with the Beatrix Hamburg Medical Student Training Fellowship. Prior to beginning medical school he held a position with the Boston Consulting Group, among the nation's leading business development groups.



Diana Samuel, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Virginia Commonwealth University, B.A. in Psychology, minor in business
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Diana originally matched into the General Adult Psychiatry program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in downtown Manhattan, and upon that hospital's precipitous closure, she was able to transfer her residency position to Mount Sinai as a PGY-2. At a young age Diana was already demonstrating great interest in the study of human behavior and psychopathology, which moved her to study psychology as an undergraduate. Her leadership skills have been marked by her being voted Vice President of the American Medical Student Association in her medical school in which she advocated for student rights, organized lecture series and fund raisers, and promoted unity among the student body. Being well rounded in both the sciences and community work, Diana nurtured her interest for academics and teaching by being involved as a co-leader teaching junior medical students clinical and basic medical knowledge. During her free time she enjoyed working as an EMT, traveling abroad and also working out. She is bilingual in English and Malayalam.



Marianna Shimonova, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Washington, B.S. in Neuroscience
MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Washington

Dr. Shimonova began pursuing her interest in psychiatry prior to medical school, being awarded a Howard Hughes Research Internship and publishing 4 papers on the neuropsychology and hormonal effects of aging and dementia. She has further interests in philosophy, ethnicity, and medical ethics, which she spent a year studying in a seminary in Israel. She is an accomplished musician, having studied piano and singing.



Laili Soleimani, MSc, MD

Physician-Scientist Research Track

UNDERGRADUATE & MEDICAL SCHOOL: Tehran University of Medical Sciences
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES: University of Toronto

Dr. Soleimani is coming to Mount Sinai psychiatry residency's Physician Scientist research track. Having initially left Iran to pursue research training and the biological substrates of behavior, she recently completed a masters degree in Neuroscience from the University of Toronto where she studied with John Roder and published her findings on the molecular correlates of a depression-like phenotype in transgenic mice. While at Toronto, she won several departmental awards from the Institute of Medical Sciences, and while in Iran, she ranked among the top national students for the Talented and Gifted Students school, scoring 72nd out of 350,000 on the national university entrance exam. She has also recently co-authored a chapter on suicide prevention.



Caitlin Stork, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Harvard University, B.A. *magna cum laude* in Comparative Study of Religion
MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Michigan Medical School

During her undergraduate career, Dr. Stork spent two years working as a mental health specialist on a locked inpatient unit, leading to her thesis study of perceived religious experiences and delusional psychoses. This was followed by her beginning work on the neurochemistry and neuroimaging of severe mental illness, out of which she produced a highly-cited first-author publication featured on the cover of *Molecular Psychiatry* and another paper in *Biological Psychiatry*. At medical school her diverse interests continued, with a focus on international and religious stigma against mental illness, and her leading independent medical student groups on medical service trips to address global issues of advocacy and access.



Hiwot Woldu, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Graceland University, B.S. *summa cum laude* in Biology and Chemistry

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

As an undergraduate valedictorian and president of her class, Dr. Woldu then went on to pursue research in a program on Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Toronto where she has won awards for her master's project studying over-expression of human Endothelin-1 in mice. This research has been submitted for review prior to publication. At Pittsburgh, working with David Brent, she produced another paper on medication adherence in adolescent depression. Throughout college and medical school, she has engaged in and coordinated a vast number of community-based projects with underserved and disadvantaged populations, for which she has won multiple awards.

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Benjamin Angarita, MD

Physician-Scientist Research Track

UNDERGRADUATE: Williams College, BA in Latino Studies

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Weill Cornell Medical College

Ben Angarita's facilities lie in many different areas, from institutional politics and business savvy to translational research and child psychiatry. He has been president of his class, president of the Boricua Latino Health Organization, team leader of the NYC firefighters skin bank, and the recipient of the prestigious Jeanne Spurlock child and adolescent psychiatry research award. Between college and medical school, he co-founded the company Visual Introspections, which developed the prototype of a game which helps parents teach their children about personal finance and sexual behavior. Building on a background in which he mapped the neurobiology of startled fish, he subsequently worked with BJ Casey in studying the effect of a polymorphism in the BDNF genotype and early psychosocial stress on anxiety. His preliminary results show that a greater number of early psychosocial stressors are needed to produce a higher amount of anxiety in the Val/Val genotype than in the Val/Met genotype. This increased sensitivity of the Val/Met genotype to anxiety symptomatology is exaggerated with increased levels of psychosocial stress. He presented his findings at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He is fluent in Spanish.



Le-Ben Wan, MD, PhD

Physician-Scientist Research Track

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA in Molecular Biology, *Summa CumLaude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

GRADUATE SCHOOL: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, PhD in Cell and Molecular

Biology, Genetics, and Gene Regulation

Ben has had a stellar scientific career. Beginning his genetics research in college, he characterized a mutation affecting inner ear development in Zebrafish, receiving distinction within his major. After college, he spent one year at the NIH, where he modified the ferritin gene for potential use as a transgenic MRI marker in cell lineage and gene therapy studies. His doctoral thesis in medical and graduate school was undertaken in Dr. Marisa Bartolomei laboratory, where he examined the in vivo functions of CTCF, a nuclear protein hypothesized to regulate long-range transcriptional silencing by influencing higher-order chromatin structure. Using RNA-inhibition in mice, Ben found that maternal stores of the protein are essential for early embryonic development. His work was the first to describe global developmental and transcriptional functions of CTCF, some of which was quite unexpected. His research was published in a first-author paper in *Development* and was selected as the feature article for that issue. Ben was awarded an NIH training grant to fund several years of his research. Continuing his focus on genomic imprinting and epigenetic regulation during mouse oogenesis and early embryogenesis, his current work seeks to delineate the effect of maternal factors during pregnancy on behavior in offspring.



Rachel Berkowitz, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, B.A. in Biology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Rachel has been interested in the brain and behavior since high school when she worked in the laboratories of Eric Kandel and Christian Gilliam studying transgenic mouse models of schizophrenia and autism. She also did volunteer work for the NYC branch of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). Her published paper in *Reviews in Neuroscience* ("The Human Dimension: How the Prefrontal Cortex Modulates the Subcortical Fear Response") is based on ideas she developed during college. After college she worked in the sleep research laboratory of David Dinges and presented her work on a cognitive assessment tool for astronauts at a national sleep conference. During medical she focused her attention on neurology with particular interest in movement disorders, but also found time to analyze a large Medicaid data set to determine whether the CATIE study on the treatment of schizophrenia has had an impact on physician prescribing behavior. A paper based on this work is now in press in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*. After two years of a neurology residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College, Rachel decided to switch to psychiatry. Rachel is also an accomplished viola player and downhill skier.



Michael Brus, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA in Political Science

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Washington School of Medicine

With a longstanding interest in public and community psychiatry since before medical school, Michael Brus spent several years in the trenches, employed as a clinical case manager with a caseload of about 65 chronically mentally ill adults, half of whom suffered from schizophrenia and/or addiction. He also worked as a floor worker in one of Seattle's largest homeless shelters, providing mental-health outreach, distributing hygiene and food supplies, and enforcing rules of conduct. While in medical school, he was awarded a monetary grant for international public health research which he used to provide in-class HIV education to over 1,000 12th-grade students at four public and private schools in rural southern India. Michael is also an avid swing dancer and a writer, having been an Assistant Editor at Slate Magazine and the web-content editor at the University of Washington School of Medicine.



Yuriy Dobry, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of California, Berkeley, BA in Molecular and Cell Biology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Sackler School of Medicine - New York State American Branch

Dr. Dobry has extensive experience in basic science research. During college, he worked for two years in a research laboratory investigating bone marrow transplantation. After graduation, he joined the UCSF neuroscience laboratory as a full-time researcher, participating in parallel projects: one focusing on dopaminergic toxicity on substantia nigra neurons and the other in studying neuronal protein trafficking, the results of which were published in *Neuron*. After graduating from medical school a year ago, he worked as a post-doc supervising studies investigating synaptic vesicle recycling and neurotransmitter release suspected to be involved in schizophrenia, as well as experiments seeking to elucidate communications between neurons and astrocytes. He is fluent in Russian, enjoys global politics, and makes stained-glass art in his free time.



Robert Jaffe, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Michigan, BS in Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Continuing an interest first realized in college when he began working as an advocate to end violence against women, Robert has led various groups throughout his undergraduate and medical careers. At Georgetown Robert was the co-president of Medical Students for Choice, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that women receive the full range of reproductive health care choices. Feeling that these choices were underrepresented in the medical school and in students' training, he has undertaken a successful lobbying campaign to allow interested Georgetown medical students the opportunity to work with abortion providers—a first for this medical school. He also worked with the Human Sexuality course directors to incorporate comprehensive education about contraception and abortion. He is an enthusiastic football fan, a drummer, and is interested in golf, space, and the history of the universe.



Adam Karz, MD, MSc

UNDERGRADUATE: University of California, San Diego, BA in History, BS in Cell Biology

GRADUATE SCHOOL: University of California, San Diego, MS in Biology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Sackler School of Medicine - New York State American Branch

In his educational career, Adam has made a name for himself in the capability he has in communicating, with peers, students, and with patients. He has been a teacher for most of his pre- medical school years, teaching courses as varied as Organic Chemistry, The History of Mental Disease in the 19th-Century, United States History in the 18th-Century, and Biochemistry-Nutrition. His masters work was centered on Bio-informatics, in which he clustered protein domains in a novel, non-biased approach to study large data sets in the realm of cellular signaling. This process was applied to seven genomic screens involving various modes of cell migration across multiple species. Through this work, statistically significant functional classes of proteins were discovered, as he illuminated a valuable tool in understanding complex signaling networks.



Evan Leibu, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Simon's Rock College of Bard, BA in Psychology and Biology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University at Buffalo State University of New York School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Evan took a non-traditional route through his academic career, entering college at the age of sixteen. From his double-major there (practically foreshadowing his becoming a psychiatrist), his academic potential continued to flourish. After college, he spent several years at Cold Spring Harbor laboratories as a research technician, and his work resulted in two papers published in peer-reviewed journals. In medical school, Evan's continued determination led to his receiving a scholarship and several Dean's Letters of Commendation as well as being elected Vice president of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section. His success in medical school has earned him induction into AOA, and he was consistently prized for his clinical attention and acumen, earning honors in every rotation.



John Leikauf, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of California, Berkeley, BA in Cultural Anthropology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Beginning with his studies in cultural anthropology, John has shown a passion for making significant humanistic contributions to his peers, patients, and chosen subjects. He has been a class representative and/or a coordinator for a multitude of medical school activities, ranging from several community-care and international health projects, to student interest groups and environmental programs like Greening Mount Sinai. For his clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service, John was inducted into the Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society. He has co-authored several peer-reviewed journal articles, including one first-author paper delineating how inner-city senior citizens view their illnesses; this latter paper was the result of work funded by a scholar grant he was awarded, and it's poster won distinction as one of the top presentations at the American Geriatrics Society annual conference.



Violeta Nistor, MD

UNDERGRADUATE AND MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila

Violeta originally matched into the General Adult Psychiatry program at North General Hospital, and upon that hospital's precipitous closure, she was able to transfer her residency position to Mount Sinai as a PGY-1. Violeta was born in Romania and is a graduate of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila in Romania. After relocating to the United States with her son, she was self-employed for many years caring for the chronically and terminally ill. She has an extensive volunteer record in and out of the medical sphere, and most recently she worked as an extern in the child and adolescent psychiatric unit at the Westborough State Hospital in Massachusetts. Her professional interests include geriatric and community psychiatry. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, gardening, mystery novels, and theater.



Erica Rapp, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Columbia University, BA in Spanish Language and Literature

MEDICAL SCHOOL: New York University School of Medicine

A Shakespearean actor who taught herself to play piano in 5th grade, Erika has a long track record of leadership, especially in community and public health. In college she became a certified rape crisis counselor and treated many acutely traumatized patients over nearly 2 years. After college, while working in research, she was also a financial counselor and case manager for an organization which provided financial assistance to women wishing to terminate pregnancies but unable to pay for the procedure. In her laboratory work, while managing a colony of over 1000 mice and overseeing budgeting, she investigated the role of the adenosine-A2A receptor in neurodegeneration in Parkinson's Disease and co-authored a paper in the *Annals of Neurology*. In medical school, she was a coordinator at the student-run free clinic and co-coordinator for the Community and Public Health Institute co-sponsored by the American Medical Student Association. Most recently she has undertaken a study with Dolores Malaspina on comorbid panic and schizophrenia and will be presenting her findings at the annual APA meeting.



Timothy Rice, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Yale University, BS in Biology, with Distinction

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Timothy is a born contributor. At Yale, he became a weekly docent, leading schoolchildren on art gallery tours, and he created a novel program to bring art activities to pediatric inpatients. Timothy has been a teacher, a proctor, a resident advisor, and a founder of various humanitarian endeavors. He created a weekly Saturday seminar in medicine and human physiology to engage at-risk adolescents and augment the public school curriculum. In medical school, he secured an American Psychiatric Foundation Grant to support bringing culturally competent psychiatric care and services to Columbia's free student-run primary care clinic. He also integrated the clinic into New York City's mental health service network. He was elected by his class to be the medical student representative to Addiction Illness: Medical Solutions, and he was responsible for broaching topics relevant to the mental health of his class and for providing informal peer counseling and formal referrals around issues of addiction and substance abuse. For his interests and activities, he earned an award for the student who best exemplified the intersection of psychiatry, the arts, and the outdoors.



Betsy O'Brien, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Yale University, BA in Psychology, *Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

A nationally ranked junior tennis player for six years, Betsy was recruited to play tennis at Yale and played varsity her first year in college. While there, she pursued an interest in psychology and public health, designing and teaching a parenting program to parents at high-risk for domestic violence and child abuse. She also worked with children with conduct disorder and/or ADHD as part of a cognitive therapy study. Following college Betsy worked for Lehman Brothers for two years, where she focused her analysis on public data networking companies, advised investors about stock picks in the data networking market, and coordinated and attended trade meetings with CEOs. In medical school, Betsy returned to her involvement in women's mental health, ultimately being elected president and director of Mount Sinai's chapter of the American Medical Women's Association. Concurrently, she furthered her community-care focus, receiving a fellowship award for community-orientated research and service, allowing her to work with the Mount Sinai Department of Health Policy, studying weight loss education among low-income minority patients.



Amy Shehata, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Fordham University, BA in Natural Science, *Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: New York University School of Medicine

Caring for children and developmental research are the common threads which run through Amy's background of diverse experiences. She has been an elementary school tutor and mentor, and while in college she worked as a caregiver for a three-year-old with a Pervasive Developmental Disorder. Simultaneously, she gravitated toward scientific pursuits and was one of only two students to receive a prestigious basic science research award after she elucidated the role for heat shock proteins in the thermal biology of horseshoe-crab embryos and larvae. After college, she was again on the front-lines as an office manager for a practice specializing in pediatric language delay. Bringing her professional experience to medical school, she was elected the class representative to the Professional Development Committee, where she discussed the skills necessary for recognizing and analyzing conflicts between the values of professionalism and the daily pressures of medical school training. She also entered NYU's Honors Research Program, incorporating herself into the intellectual life of a research group and investigating the role hedgehog signaling plays in nail- and digit-tip development. She was president of NYU's psychiatry interest group, and she is fluent in Egyptian Arabic.

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Tobias Halene, MD, PhD (*Physician-Scientist Research Track*)

UNDERGRADUATE & MEDICAL SCHOOL: Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität

GRADUATE SCHOOL: PhD in Neuroscience, Aachen University

PhD in Anesthesiology, University of Münster

Tobias was trained as a physician scientist in Germany and Italy. For his German doctoral thesis, he studied the neural basis of opioid analgesia. During his first year of psychiatry residency in Germany, Tobias received a scholarship from the International Research Training Group to study the brain-behavior relationship of emotion in schizophrenia and autism—a joint project between the University of Aachen and the University of Pennsylvania. Based on this experience, Tobias sought a post-doctoral position with Steven Siegel to study the function of NMDA receptors in a mouse model of schizophrenia using event-related potentials. He also developed and led projects examining the effects of nicotine on evoked potentials, fear conditioning, and social behavior in mice. While in these roles, Tobias developed a keen interest in becoming an academic psychiatrist with a translational focus spanning clinical care, clinical research, and basic science. As a project manager at the UPenn Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center, he worked on a number of human clinical research studies to determine the effects of nicotine agonists and a COMT inhibitor on brain activity and cognitive function. He was also project manager for PET studies and for an fMRI study of brain response to anti-tobacco public service announcements. In a short 2 years, Tobias's work as a post-doc was highly productive, resulting in four first-author publications, some of which involved his comprehensive evaluation of the electrophysiological and behavioral consequences of NMDA receptor hypofunction in mouse models of schizophrenia. He also studied the potential role of phosphodiesterase inhibitors as therapeutic drug targets in schizophrenia and the effects of predator odor on sensory processing in mice. Tobias also co-authored four additional papers, bringing his total peer-reviewed publications to 11. As he soon realized that his passions lay in being a well-rounded physician-scientist able to practice and research in both the United States and Europe, he felt the calling to complete residency training while continuing to pursue his research interests. Tobias is fluent in German, English, and has some proficiency in Spanish, Italian, and French.



Joseph Mayer, MD (*Physician-Scientist Research Track*)

UNDERGRADUATE: Stanford University, BS in Biological Sciences

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Joseph's facilities lie in many different areas, from information technology and business savvy to data analysis and translational research. At Stanford, Joseph studied under Sapolsky and Schatzberg, designing experiments investigating the effects of stress and trophic factors on the brain. Following his winning a year-long research grant in which he studied substance P antagonists and neurogenesis in the adult brain, he spent several years as a junior researcher and research consultant in the labs of Ron de Kloet and Marian Joels in the Netherlands. He successfully obtained funding for a chronic stress-depression model in animals to examine the effects of stress and HPA-axis dysfunction on the brain at cellular and genetic levels; this translational work has been submitted for publication in *Hippocampus*. He also used this model to investigate the effects of RU486 on neurogenesis, resulting in a first-author publication in the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology* and a co-authored article in the *European Journal of Neuroscience*. While in the Netherlands, Joseph co-founded Ivy Circle Netherlands, a community of Dutch alumni clubs of North American universities. From the first activity he organized—combining a talk by the head of Google Europe with a fundraiser for Hurricane Katrina victims—the organization today comprises over 1500 members from a dozen American universities. Joseph also started his own business: finding a gap in the Dutch wireless infrastructure, he proposed a novel solution and gained support to launch an Amsterdam-based wireless startup to build non-cellular wireless networks in Dutch cities, for use by government, hospitals, first responders, enterprise, and consumers. This was the first such network in the country, and its success led to contracts throughout the country's largest university and port cities. In his first year of medical school, Joseph partnered with a colleague and two professors to co-found a company focused on detecting critical anomalies in datasets. They developed a patent-pending algorithm to apply outlier detection tools to healthcare data, and collaborated on a pilot program for electronic medical record privacy protection. Joseph is fluent in Spanish, Dutch, and conversational in Italian.



Yadira Alonso, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Miami, BS in Psychology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Temple University School of Medicine

Born in Cuba, Yadi came to Miami at the age of nine as a political refugee. Thus sparked her longstanding interest in directing public services, now realized in the many organizations which she has either helped found or in which she has held leadership positions. Prior to medical school, she co-founded a free clinic for women and children victims of domestic violence. Initially funded through grants, the clinic subsequently grew, under Yadi's direction, into an affiliation with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where it now exists as a teaching community health center for medical student clerks. She has been president of the Community Service Organization and president of a child-mentoring program, both in Philadelphia. A mentor to minority students, she was the regional coordinator for the Latino Medical Students' Association, and she co-chaired and developed the curriculum for her school's medical Spanish course. She was also president of the psychiatry interest group for several years. She is fluent in Spanish and American Sign Language.



Jesse Costales, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Pomona College, BA in Neuroscience

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

From serving as mentorship chair of a committee assisting medical students financially, academically and professionally, to tutoring abused children and working in mobile clinics in rural Ecuador, Jesse has balanced leadership, academics, and service to his community. Over the past two years, Jesse has been involved in multiple research projects, including studying the effects of pre-operative MDD on post-transplant prognosis, the over-prescription of antipsychotics for non-psychotic but depressed men in a public sector clinic, and how the conditioned preferences of amphetamine-injected rats respond to ceftriaxone administration. He also spent a scholarship-funded research year studying Barrett's Esophagus, the quality of life post-esophagectomy, the self-dilatation of strictures after esophagectomy, and the impact of Nissen fundoplication on aneuploidy, resulting in a publication in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*. A double black belt, Jesse has studied various forms of martial arts since the age of 6. Jesse also has extensive experience and training in the management of hazardous waste. Most recently, he trained employees for a project inspecting all storm drains in the Los Angeles and Orange counties, and he was contracted to produce a 500-page analysis of the solid waste accumulation in street and freeway storm drains. He is fluent in Spanish.



Thomas DePrima, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Harvard University, BA in Biology, *Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

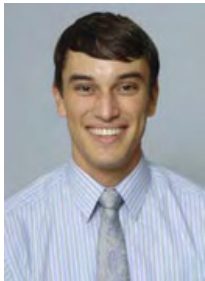
Thomas has been a classical percussionist since the age of nine, and at 12 he twice performed for Sesame Street. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and in 35 countries; his audience has included royalty and heads of state. Thomas has focused on the healthcare of underserved communities. As cofounder and manager of the student-run outreach of the UM Miller of Medicine, he brought free healthcare to communities in need, and as the government liaison for medical students, he worked with local government agencies to foster medical students' involvement in health policy. Thomas is also interested in professional development, and he cofounded the Ethics and Humanities Pathway at University of Miami. He is currently performing a prospective study assessing the degree of "empathy erosion" over the course of third-year clerkships, and whether the structure of medical school during the first two years plays an important role. He is also working on a study examining the frequency of comorbid ODD, CD, anxiety, and depression in children with ADHD and assessing whether pediatric guidelines adequately screen for these conditions.



Simon Desjardins, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, BA in Music Performance, *Cum Laude*
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

After his college concentration in African American Music and West African Drumming, Simon spent time on an award scholarship studying traditional drumming and dancing in Ghana. Stemming from these experiences, he was driven to international medicine and providing care to impoverished populations. Prior to starting medical school, Simon was an ER technician before studying at the Center for AIDS Research in Providence, RI, focusing on HIV infection in refugees and in jail populations, resulting in co-authored papers in the *International Journal of Infectious Disease* and the *Journal of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*. In medical school, Simon studied tropical medicine in rural clinics in Mexico, co-organized the social medicine course at Einstein, and was co-chair of the student group Physicians for a National Health Program. His experiences with traumatized chronic patients led him to realize that his greatest impact might come from providing psychiatric care, and for the past year, Simon has been working in Herbert Lachman's molecular research lab developing in vitro models for schizophrenia using induced pluripotent stem cells, growing neurons from patients with schizophrenia. Simon has won several awards for his music and has performed at large hip-hop and jazz events focused on community development. He was selected by his peers for induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.



Brandon Johnson, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Texas Austin, BS in Biomedical Engineering
MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

Brandon has a dedicated focus on facilitating care for underserved communities. He chaired the mental health screening component of the UT Southwestern medical student-run free clinic, and he was heavily involved in the American Medical Student Association since the start of medical school. In his first year, he served as the LGBT advocate for his school's chapter of AMSA. As a second year student, he served as AMSA's chapter secretary, successfully organizing a regional conference focused on healthcare for underserved communities and attracting attendees from nearly two dozen other medical schools. He also organized community health fairs geared toward lower socioeconomic families. He was awarded a scholarship recognizing outstanding engineering students.



Marc Lener, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA in Biological Basis of Behavior
MEDICAL SCHOOL: George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

For 5 years before medical school, Marc was an award-winning full-time high school science teacher in Georgetown, D.C. Shortly after he began his teaching career, a stint at the NIH studying Pain and Neurosensory Mechanisms led to his growing interest in psychiatric research, and while continuing to teach full-time, he joined Thomas Hyde's team working under Daniel Weinberger at NIMH. Since 2003, he has been involved in ongoing research studying the clinical signs and symptoms and neurobiological basis of schizophrenia. He has co-authored articles in *Brain* on handedness, heritability, neurocognition, and brain asymmetry in schizophrenia as well as in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* on the relationship of frontal release signs in schizophrenic patients. He has a first-authored work in the process of submission. He has also received research grants to study medical education, and he has published on Canadian medical students' perspectives on the value of basic science lectures as well as presented on the impact of multiple choice questions on learning. Marc is a former collegiate swimmer and water polo player and is nearly fluent in Spanish.



Daniella Loh, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Columbia University, BA in Psychology
MEDICAL SCHOOL: New York University School of Medicine

Early on in her academic career, Daniella pursued basic science research in endocrinology, focusing on adipocytes and food intake regulatory mechanisms involving gene regulation and early cellular differentiation. She also worked on projects involving the effects of leucine on obesity and metabolism in mice as well as the role of leptin signaling in peripheral tissues. Her work culminated in publications in *Endocrinology* and in *Diabetes*. Simultaneously, she began work to increase mental health resources for the Asian community in New York, including work on city-wide mental health conferences. Furthering her interest in the cultural aspects of psychiatry, she is currently completing work on a study examining the psychosocial predictors of depression in coronary artery disease patients in Bangkok, Thailand. Similarly, she is interested in cultural stigma against mental health care, including examining the role shame plays in contemplating and attempting suicide.



Sara Lozyniak, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Cornell University, BA Biology, *Magna Cum Laude*
MEDICAL SCHOOL: State University of New York Upstate Medical University

Sara has a long history of caring for people burdened by serious and chronic illnesses. She has worked in hospice care, and she has been a patient care technician in dialysis clinics. That she sings in 5 languages and that her idea of a refreshing vacation is a two-week glacier hike in Alaska reflects her attitude toward challenges. Such personal attributes garnered the attention of the President of her medical university who appointed her as one of three student ambassadors to the community. She was also tasked with interviewing applicants to the medical school. Recently, she was elected as one of only a handful of National Education Coordinators for the American Medical Student Association, charged with developing AMSA's educational programming. Stemming from her interest in the care of patients with chronic diseases, she was the president of the Healthcare in Transition group, tasked with educating students about coming financial changes to medical care. An avid ballroom and swing dancer, Sara is also a certified SCUBA divemaster and has studied the distribution of common crabs in the waters off Maine and their implications for intertidal food webs.



Nathaniel Mendelsohn, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Harvard College, BA in Classics-Latin, *Magna Cum Laude*
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

The son of a psychiatrist, Nathaniel has had a longstanding interest in understanding human nature, which he has pursued from a variety of vantage points. He was awarded four years of scholarships at Harvard and received the award for best Latin thesis, "Book 2 of the Aeneid: The Influence and Function of Tragedy." While in college, he worked as an associate editor of the popular Let's Go travel series, covering the northeastern US and eastern Canada. He has held jobs at MTV in which he worked on a documentary about aspiring politicians, at a production company working on the documentary film, "Heir to an Execution," and at a company specializing in documentaries. Prior to medical school, he researched the role of neurogenesis in the treatment of depression, using animal models. He also examined obesity-related health problems of patients treated in a community-based mental health clinic, highlighting the need for developing culturally-sensitive interventions in urban settings, culminating in a peer-reviewed journal article. He has been awarded numerous fellowships to attend conferences around the world focusing on international health care, and he has been the session coordinator for Einstein's student-run free clinic.



Andrew Mitton, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Fordham University, BA in Philosophy, *Summa Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: School of Medicine at Stony Brook University

Andrew received the prize for the top student majoring in philosophy as well as a four-year Dean's Scholarship for academic excellence. He was the founder and executive program director of the Youth Peacebuilders Network, engaged in local community-building initiatives and collaborative international peace projects. His membership includes youth in 5 countries. He has represented YPN at the United Nations, has developed extensive training modules in conflict resolution, leadership, and peacebuilding taught in workshops in the United States, the Canadian Arctic, and Europe, and has presented his work to the US Embassy in Sarajevo and the Bosnian War Crimes Tribunal. His work has led to additional NGO consultant positions in which he was tasked with developing peacebuilding curricula focused on narrative exploration and negotiation/leadership skills and such for youth exposed to terrorism. He organized youth-led training interventions for schools in Bermuda facing challenges of racial and socio-economic integration. For the past 15 years, Andrew has been a sailor with extensive race experience on the East Coast, including having crewed on an open ocean race between Bermuda and Nova Scotia. He is fluent in jazz trumpet.



Alison Welch, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Northwestern University, BA in Psychology, *Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: State University of New York – Upstate Medical University

A classical ballerina, Alison was one of only a few dancers chosen to study professionally at the School of American Ballet in Lincoln Center. In addition, she has multiple scholastic accomplishments, in the form of scholarships, honors, and fellowships, including being nominated by her peers for the Gold Humanism in Medicine Award. In college, she was one of only two students honored for combined achievements in academic, artistic, philanthropic, and extracurricular pursuits. Having left the world of ballet for medicine, Alison has consistently found import in furthering women's academic and professional achievements. She helped orchestrate conferences publicizing and honoring the first woman to receive a medical degree (in 1849), and she functioned as a representative charged with securing funding for the American Medical Women's Association. She was also awarded multiple fellowships including studies in forensic psychiatry, after which she was accepted to present her findings at the World Psychiatric Association conference in Florence, Italy. Interested in using her experiences to usher in academic growth, she is currently working on a project looking into the effects of feedback on medical student evaluations of psychiatry resident teaching.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

Department of Psychiatry – Matched Residents 2012



Amy Nebenhaus (Egolf)

UNDERGRADUATE: Wesleyan University, BA in Classics

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

From Wesleyan and with a brief stint at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, Amy entered Mount Sinai through the Humanities and Medicine Program. She has had success in both her dedication to service and in teaching and curricular development. She organized the largest student-run event at the medical center and chaired a 20-person steering committee to provide health education and resources to the East Harlem community. She has held leadership positions in various educational areas, including recruiting faculty to teach in an after school program she coordinated and whose curriculum she designed, and being named Head of Teacher Training for the Sexual Health Group at Mount Sinai. This is in addition to her multiple concurrent roles as mentor, tutor, and TA. True to her seemingly native ability to lead, Amy was the coxswain and Captain of the Wesleyan Women's Varsity Crew team.



Amy Glick

UNDERGRADUATE: Columbia University, BA in Psychology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Jefferson Medical College

Amy has balanced a passion for adventure, an academic inquisitiveness, and a thoughtful curiosity of the impairments of the mind and brain. In college, she was a manager at an historic acoustic folk music venue, a leader for 3-day long canoeing trips, and a first-responder for the Israeli Red Cross. She studied primate cognition in Columbia's Behavioral Psychology lab and collected data on the spatial performance of NMDA knock-out mice in Eric Kandel's lab. She designed a curriculum for art, science, and English literature while teaching at a bilingual school in southwestern Honduras, and she worked side-by-side with members with mental illnesses in a clubhouse setting. Adding administrative activities into the mix, Amy sat on the Steering Committee of her school's student-run clinic for the uninsured.



Brian Fuchs, MPH

UNDERGRADUATE: Harvard University, BA in Economics, *Magna Cum Laude*

GRADUATE: Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, MPH

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Harvard Medical School

Brian graduated Harvard having been named a Harvard College Scholar, a John Harvard Scholar, and a Justice Brandeis Scholar. He has a long record of leadership, research success, and work with the disabled. As a college senior and for 4 years after, he served as a director of the National association for the Visually Handicapped. After college Brian studied psoriasis and eosinophilic fasciitis in the Mount Sinai Department of Dermatology, where he co-authored multiple chapters and peer-reviewed articles. Subsequently, while in an MPH program at Columbia, he co-authored a peer-reviewed article on vision loss in pseudoxanthoma elasticum. In medical school, Brian founded and was the president of the Benjamin Rush Society, also serving on its national board that includes chapters at 15 other schools. Brian was a representative on the Student Governing Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society committee on disaster preparedness and public health. Additionally, his work on several research projects concerning children with intellectual disability living in residential care centers in Israel has resulted in his co-authoring over ten articles and book chapters.



Jake Rosenberg

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania,
Wharton School, BS in Economics and Health Care Management
School of Engineering & Applied Science, BAS in Health Care Systems

MEDICAL SCHOOL: SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

Jake's interests have ranged along academic, artistic, and systems-based economic explorations and applications. Jake studied economic policy at UPenn and worked in the Firearm Injury Center analyzing how to reduce intentional injury and improve outcomes. After graduation, he took a position as the sole financial analyst for the \$85M affiliation contract between NYU School of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital. At the time, Jake also spent his nights crafting songs and performing in clubs. Realizing that psychiatry could meld his interests, Jake entered medical school, directed a nutrition fair, and presided over the local Medical Artists Guild. He created a foundation to oversee the collection and donation of student microscopes rendered obsolete in the school's transition to a computer based histology curriculum, and he collaborated with local non-profit agencies to ship the donated equipment to Mexico, Haiti, and Africa, where the microscopes are now used in local health clinics. Jake has helped develop a new curriculum for Downstate, has studied at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and is the son of a psychiatrist.



Jennifer O'Keeffe

UNDERGRADUATE: Tulane University, BS in Neuroscience, *Summa Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Prior to matriculating at Albert Einstein, Jennifer graduated in the top 15 students of her college class, earning awards for being most distinguished in community service and academic merit. She has received 4-year merit-based academic scholarships to college and medical school, the latter for demonstrated leadership, service to the community, and academic and research excellence. Elected by her peers to serve as Community Service Chair for the AMA, Jennifer organized community events and led AMA meetings with other officers to encourage community service. She is also driven by research interests. She has performed craniotomies on rats, injecting their brains with a modified herpes virus to facilitate brain pathway tracking for future research, and at Tulane she developed an honors thesis from her research on muscarinic receptors in homogenized rat brains. After her first year at Einstein, she was awarded a grant to work in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, was the first-assistant in several premature infant patent ductus arteriosus repairs, and was the primary author on a clinical research-based case report; "An Interesting Vascular Ring." To round out the picture, during summer and winter breaks, she worked as a Medical Assistant for a clinic on Long Island, often working at the front desk to become familiar with insurance reimbursement and patient coverage information. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry selected her to be featured in an upcoming monthly journal.



Ilana Jerud, MA, MPH

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA in Psychology

GRADUATE: Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, MPH

GRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, MA in Bioethics

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Jefferson Medical College

Ilana's ability to bring people together for humanitarian pursuits has been a fixture throughout her educational career. She was an emergency medical technician throughout high school, before subsequently founding the University of Pennsylvania's medical emergency response team. She founded, organized, and raised funds for a yearly festival that brings physicians, dentists, and other health care professionals together to provide free health check-ups and nutritional education for children. She organized a fundraiser that raised money for an entity that connects American students with Ugandan students in an effort to share knowledge about AIDS, and she organized the first concert in a tour to raise additional money for the organization. She organized and marketed a 600- person fundraiser to support disaster relief after the Haiti earthquake. She is currently an organizer for a methadone maintenance program, working to advocate for continued access to methadone therapy and lobbying against proposed state legislation limiting payment for methadone treatment. Ilana is fluent in Hebrew and will have completed two Masters degrees at graduation from medical school.



Laura Powers

UNDERGRADUATE: Harvard University, BA in Sociology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Laura entered Mount Sinai through the Humanities and Medicine Program. At Harvard, Laura found a drive to study and work in community service, where she began to focus her attention on working with children and adolescents. From her early experiences as a tutor and mentor, she grew to become director at different community-based programs, including one working to foster a sense of community and cultural identity among Boston's Native American youth and empowering future leaders from that community. In medical school, Laura has worked with the Child Life Department to develop a new Medical Student Experience component of the program, facilitating student participants' integrating medical learning with service experience. Furthering her interest and efforts in outreach, Laura has been working with the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Mount Sinai to design a protocol studying the prevalence of psychiatric illness in Mount Sinai's Pediatric Hematology/Oncology clinic. Her commitment to service has earned her recognition in college and medical school, and she's been the recipient of awards for dedication, creativity in service, and this year's outstanding graduating student in psychiatry.



Olanrewaju Dokun

UNDERGRADUATE: Brown University, BA in Psychology & Philosophy

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Born in a rural Nigerian village and fluent in Yoruba, Lanre is driven to psychiatry to help open doors for people who are often marginalized and forced into the fringes in the hopes that they may realize their potentials. At Brown, Lanre dedicated himself to service, helping to create and coordinate programs to provide advising and support for struggling students. He has worked as a research assistant on numerous projects, including studies looking at the relationship between serious mental illness and HIV, and those concerning adult developmental disorders. He also taught social skills to adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. At Mount Sinai, Lanre played a vital role in introducing mental health care to the student-run clinic for the uninsured, where he has held administrative, managerial, and provider positions. Lanre is currently studying the role and impact of diversity on the quality of medical education for minority medical students and physicians, including the perceived effect of diversity and race on career progress, goals, and the delivery of medical care.



Mariana Schmajuk

UNDERGRADUATE: Duke University, BS in Psychology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Boston University School of Medicine

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a native Spanish speaker, Mariana grew up with a love of music, playing piano and giving concerts in which she soloed. Her interest in neuroscience began with high school projects at Duke University and continued through college when she worked at Duke's Center for Cognitive Neuroscience. She designed, executed, and analyzed experiments using ERPs to investigate response inhibition in normal adults, creating a model to demonstrate how such mechanisms might be translated in ADHD. Her work was published as a first authored paper in *Neuropsychologia*. Mariana delved further into research during an Intramural Research Training Fellowship at NIMH under Ellen Leibenluft, in which Mariana examined the pathophysiology of pediatric bipolar disorder, studying attention, memory function, emotional response and regulation, reward processing, reaction time, and motor inhibition. She presented at multiple conferences and is a co-author on multiple publications, including 2 in *Biological Psychiatry*, 2 in *American Journal of Psychiatry*, and another in *Development and Psychopathology*. She has also worked in the Center for Neural Science at NYU, using electron microscopy to study the distribution of acetylcholine muscarinic receptors across the visual cortex in Rhesus macaques. Mariana is on the Executive Committee of the Clinical Neuroscience Society.



Nicholas Stevens

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Oregon, Clark Honors College, BS in Biology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

The recipient of multiple academic honors and scholarships, Nicholas graduated college with honors and distinction. For some time, he had been drawn to cognitive neuroscience, and his undergraduate thesis, "Identifying Core Consciousness in Animals," examined neuroscience from a broad and largely philosophical perspective. Continuing his interest in such domains, Nicholas received a Fulbright Scholarship and joined a neuropsychology laboratory at the Freie Universität in Berlin that uses fMRI and EEG to study language processing as a means to explore the neural correlates of emotions and decision making. His Fulbright focused on experimentation into the scientific and philosophical underpinnings of psychiatry, and he entered medical school to further study cognitive neuroscience in the applied context of alleviating suffering. Nicholas' interest in psychiatry reflects a gradual evolution from early philosophical and scientific interests in the human mind into a matured desire to apply this knowledge to improving clinical care. Nicholas has played cello since the fourth grade and has been a member of various chamber groups as well as the University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra. He is fluent in German.



Rachel Fischer

UNDERGRADUATE: Stony Brook University, BS in Biochemistry, *Summa Cum Laude*

MEDICAL SCHOOL: New York University School of Medicine

Rachel showed a flair for science since high school when she was a semifinalist for the Siemens/Westinghouse competition and the Intel Science Talent Competition. Her research involved signal transduction pathways and antigens in pancreatic cancer, which ultimately led to her isolating and cloning monoclonal antibodies in college. Rachel's accomplishments and leadership in this and other basic science research earned her scholarships and awards, including being selected as a senior WISE mentor. In medical school at NYU, she furthered an interest in helping many of those marginalized by society, from serving as an advertising director for the Special Olympics, to working to prevent deaths from opiate overdose. She created a program to educate patients in safer drug use and how to administer naloxone; a controversial topic in medicine and policy, Rachel took this as an occasion to study Physician Attitudes on Naloxone Overdose Prevention. She has worked in Bangkok with an international scientific-military collaboration which is on the cutting edge of research in tropical medicine and infectious disease. Rachel minored in cinema and cultural studies, has played guitar, bass, and drums since age 16, and has been in multiple bands, playing shows around the Northeast, and recording demos.



Stacy Henderson

UNDERGRADUATE: Washington and Lee University, BA in Psychology

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Jefferson Medical College

Stacy's enthusiasm for and prior life in teaching has influenced much of her work in medicine. During her years as a high school science teacher in Teach for America, Stacy worked with some of the most difficult student populations in the country. With these students, she founded and coached an Odyssey of the Mind program, and further developing her interest in child and adolescent psychiatry, her work involved implementing a strategy that prioritized restoring trust between students and teachers while holding students accountable for their actions. She also trained some of these students to run in the Philadelphia Marathon and other such races. In medical school, Stacy has developed educational curricula for both children and adults, including directing patient programs in medical literacy and programs in art for women on methadone living in a halfway house. Her work comparing medical students' responses to counseling patients about Shaken Baby Syndrome with their performance in the counseling task itself has been presented at several regional and national meetings.



Ivan Mauricio Chavarria-Siles, MD, MS (PhD in process)

Physician-Scientist Research Track

UNDERGRADUATE & MEDICAL SCHOOL: Universidad de Costa Rica

GRADUATE SCHOOL: University Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid, Spain, MS in Biochemistry

To date, Ivan has had a very successful career in molecular psychiatry research. After medical school, while a neuroscience research fellow in Madrid, he completed a Masters degree in biochemistry studying the molecular mechanisms of endocannabinoid-modulated neuroinflammation in an animal model of acute brain infection. This work was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. His interests then broadened to a new research question, concerning the direct brain effects of genes associated with psychiatric disorders. Pursuing this interest, he received a Fogarty International NIH fellowship grant to support his postdoctoral research in psychiatric genetics at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. His laboratory work focused, among other things, on investigating the role of a novel TGIF mutation associated with schizophrenia, which led to a first author manuscript in *Molecular Psychiatry*. Additionally, he has published both first-author and co-authored papers in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, and another first-author paper in *Cerebral Cortex*, describing how genes encoding heterotrimeric G- proteins are associated with grey matter volume variations in the medial frontal cortex. Having recently spent some time working as an Instructor of Biochemistry and Genetics at the University of Costa Rica School of Medicine, Ivan received an offer to start a research program in Imaging Genetics at the Vrije University in Amsterdam, where he is currently, applying statistical genetics approaches to MRI imaging phenotypes of candidate genes of brain/psychiatric disorders. He is fluent in Dutch and Spanish.



Piergiuseppe Fedele, MD

Physician-Scientist Research Track

UNDERGRADUATE & MEDICAL SCHOOL: Libera Università 'Vita Salute S. Raffaele' Milano, Italy

Giuseppe graduated *summa cum laude* from medical school, having received a prestigious merit-based scholarship. Soon after, he moved to Harvard's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as a research fellow in molecular pathology where he further developed his academic research skills. Less than a year after joining the lab, he published his work in a co-first author manuscript in *PNAS*. In this research, he employed a neuroscience technique—organotypic slice cultures—and applied it for the first time to the pharmacodynamics profiling of human tumors. This system has now been widely adopted by other scientists and is set to create significant translational implications for cancer patients. He also analyzed and demonstrated the unequivocal utility of fatty acid synthase as a powerful prognostic biomarker in prostate cancer, and he has elucidated the role of AMP-activated kinase in tumorigenesis using a genetic mouse model of metabolic syndrome. This work has been published in *Nature Medicine*, *Science Signaling*, *Laboratory Investigation*, *Cancer Cell*, *Cancer Research*, and the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Giuseppe has served as a reviewer for multiple scientific journals, including *Cell Metabolism*, *Cancer Research*, and the *American Journal of Pathology*. More recently, Giuseppe has begun a study comparing patterns of psychotropic use in long term cancer survivors versus cancer-naïve controls. This work has furthered his fascination with the mind, leading him to reflect upon questions at the intersection of neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and psychiatry. Specifically, his interests lie in neuroscientifically and clinically exploring the essence of psychic “normality,” the nature of creativity and artistic temperament (a classical pianist, he is a student at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston), the definition of intelligence, and the origins of consciousness.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

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Drew Kiraly, MD, PhD *Physician-Scientist Research Track*

UNDERGRADUATE: Drew University, BA in Neurobiology, *Magna*

GRADUATE: PhD in Neuroscience, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

MEDICAL: University of Connecticut School of Medicine

A four-year college Presidential Scholar, member of multiple honor societies, and president of various undergraduate societies, Drew also played varsity lacrosse. He began his research career studying synaptic serotonin in SERT knockout mice, and soon moved to work with Dr. Jane Taylor at Yale, investigating animal models of drug addiction, chronic stress, and depression. He has received numerous awards for his research, including the Outstanding Scientific Presentation at the UConn Annual Neuroscience Symposium, and he was chosen as a supported fellow on a Department of Neuroscience NIH training grant for 2 years. To support his further doctoral work, Drew received a very prestigious F30 grant from the National Institutes on Drug Abuse for his proposed study of the roles of Kalirin-7 and the nucleus accumbens in cocaine- signaling. Attempting to understand why the loss of one single gene affecting the organization of the actin cytoskeleton had the effects it did on anxiety-like behavior, fear conditioning, and sensitization to cocaine, Drew completed his doctoral dissertation in lab of Dr. Betty Eipper, characterizing the PSD-localized Rho-GEF Kalirin-7 in the mouse brain and investigating its role in learning and addictive-like behaviors, as well as neuronal morphology and NMDA receptor signaling. Using Kalirin-7 knockout mice (Kal7KO), experiments included modeling of cocaine abuse, contextual learning, anxiety, and characterization of dendritic spine changes before and after cocaine treatment. He determined a direct interaction between the Kalirin-7 protein and the NR2B subunit of the NMDA receptor which was critical for the behavioral abnormalities and NMDA receptor trafficking seen in the Kal7KO mice. His post-dissertation ongoing work includes investigating cocaine self-administration behaviors in Kalirin-7 knockout mice, quantitative phosphorylation changes in Kalirin-7 from mice treated with acute or chronic cocaine or amphetamine, and breeding floxed Kalirin-7 conditional knockout mice with mice expressing Cre-recombinase under control of the Dopamine-1 receptor or Dopamine-2 receptor promoter. Comprising his 15 published peer-reviewed journal articles, Drew has first author papers in *Biological Psychiatry*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Journal of Proteome Research*, and *ACS Chemical Neuroscience*. He has co-authored papers in *Biological Psychiatry*, *Psychopharmacology*, *BMC Neuroscience*, *Psychopharmacology*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Genes, Brain & Behavior*, *Molecular Pharmacology*, and *RNA*. He has presented his work at numerous national conferences, including many years' of posters at Society for Neuroscience. Not only is Drew an accomplished researcher, he is an outstanding teacher and public speaker. During his PhD training years, he was repeatedly selected to speak at sessions designed to attract new students, and several of his protégés have since transferred their career paths to neuroscience.



Kenechi Ejebe, MD *Physician-Scientist Research Track*

UNDERGRADUATE: Carleton College, BA in Biology

MEDICAL: George Washington University School of Medicine

Born in Enugu, Nigeria to a professor and a judge, Kenechi immigrated to Plymouth, Minnesota when he was 8 years old. Despite first learning English through ESL classes, he eventually went on to compete in speech and debate tournaments in high school, and he has since excelled in academic pursuits and leadership. During college summers, Kenechi worked on an independent research project funded by the National Science Foundation, examining the genetics of legume inflorescence architecture. He was awarded the Larson International Fellowship during his junior year and traveled to Southern China and Hong Kong to investigate how traditional dietary systems play a role in culture. As a college senior, he earned first-place honors at the Harvard World Model UN Conference in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and he was selected to be Carleton College's Class of 2002 Commencement Speaker. After college, Kenechi spent 2 years as an Intramural Training Award Fellow at NIH where he characterized the function of a critical enzyme in HIV, publishing his work in the *Journal of Virology*. In medical school, Kenechi enrolled in the Global Health Track and spent his first summer as an intern at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. There he worked with the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS team to develop guidelines for baseline assessment and implementation of programs to prevent HIV infections in infants and young children. At GW med school, he served as the chapter co-Leader of Physicians for Human Rights and organized a healthcare disparities conference featuring former Health & Human Services Secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan as keynote speaker. He was co-President of the GW chapter of the Student National Medical Association for 2 years and on SNMA's national Board of Directors for 1 year. He chaired the International Health Committee and coordinated international medical missions to Kenya and Guatemala. These and other accomplishments led to Kenechi's selection as an AMA Minority Scholar; he was 1 of 10 students in the country to receive this \$10,000 prize. After his third year of medical school, Kenechi was awarded a Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Fellowship, and spent a year at Massachusetts General Hospital where he conducted a genome-wide association study testing single nucleotide polymorphisms for association to several phenotypes in approximately 8,000 African-American patients. He has co-authored papers in *Nature* (x2), *Nature Genetics*, *PLoS Genetics* (x2), and *Human Genetics*. For part of the past year, Kenechi worked in Mount Sinai's Division of Psychiatric Genomics where, under Pamela Sklar, he worked to establish disease models for schizophrenia using human induced pluripotent cells and investigated candidate genes of interest for follow-up work from genome-wide association studies.



Jesse Astwood, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: CUNY Brooklyn College, BA in History, Phi Beta Kappa
MEDICAL: SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

Jesse entered medical school through the highly competitive CUNY/SUNY combined BA/MD program, where his adept curiosity led to his graduating medical school in the top of his class. With interests and activities ranging from gardening, cooking, and media analysis to paleontology, criminology, and sociobiology, he has written on the psychopathology inherent in superhero and apocalyptic stories. He also has dissected and reconstructed whale and other marine mammal skeletons in Mount Sinai's evolutionary biology laboratory. He has been responsible for a culinary after-school program for at-risk inner city high school kids, post-produced animated films, and made his way as a weekly humor columnist.



Claire Brandon, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Capital University, BA in Biology, *Summa*
MEDICAL: Wright State University School of Medicine

Winning an aptly named Human Development Award early in her training, Claire was elected President of her school's American Medical Women's Association, Officer of the American Medical Association, Committee Chair of the American Medical Student Association, and four-times re-elected as the rep to the Honor Code Committee. She has studied the attitudes of residents in various specialties toward borderline personality disorder with an aim to identify possible education deficits in training, and she has written CME teaching tools in peer-reviewed online indexes. She has also published findings on the various aspects of genetically-modified foods in the US and Latin America, noting inappropriate labeling on commonly consumed products. A lifelong musician, she has served as her congregation's head violinist for nearly a decade.



Judy Burke, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Bryn Mawr College, BA in Music
MEDICAL: SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

Graduating with a degree in music, Judy found a career path first working at the US Department of State as an IT consultant, then as an online programmer, then spending a number of years supporting daily operations of multiple small construction subcontractors, and finally owning and operating a small eponymous construction-subcontracting firm which performed demolition and concrete installation projects. Judy subsequently entered medical school in the four-year Clinical Neurosciences Pathway, where she assumed ongoing leadership as a multi-year president of the psychiatry student interest group, regional chair of PsychSIGN, and three-year editor of the student literary and arts publication. Pursuing her interest in geriatric psychiatry, she has studied the impact of changes in home care delivery systems on caregiver burden and patients' neuropsychiatric symptoms. Judy has played violin in many small orchestras, and for over a decade has played fiddle in a country rock band.



Kara Gulewicz, MD, MA

UNDERGRADUATE: Cornell University, BA in Neurobiology, *Magna*
MEDICAL: Combined MA/MD, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

Receiving honors in nearly every course throughout medical school, Kara has a distinguished history of academic success, research, and writing. In college, she researched sleep and memory in humans, before turning her attention to female hamsters' behavior and neural activation: she wondered whether captivity could lead to inter-species mating. She published this work in *Behavioral Neuroscience* and the *Journal of Zoology*. Early in medical school, Kara published on alopecia produced by sustained signaling in follicle matrix cells. She later studied regulatory variants in atopic dermatitis, receiving a Masters Degree and publishing in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* and in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. Kara was selected as a Theme Issue Editor for the AMA's Journal of Ethics, Virtual Mentor. She focused on how physicians can ethically approach patients' use of complementary and alternative medicine, eliciting contributions from skeptics and proponents, including Deepak Chopra and Skeptic magazine. She was recently invited to give a grand rounds presentation at Wash U on the nature of an expert witness.



Alfredo Gutierrez, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Rice University, BA in Psychology

MEDICAL: Baylor College of Medicine

Alfredo has a longstanding record of leadership, community service, working with underserved populations, and facilitating student wellness. In addition to his role with the College Assistance Peer Program helping students with mental, emotional, and health issues, he has held executive positions in the Hispanic Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice and the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) at Baylor. He helped construct a women's resource center in Guatemala, and as 1 of 10 students awarded a fellowship by the Center for Civic Engagement at Rice, he worked for the Amazon Community and Indigenous Health Program in Ecuador. Between college and medical school, Alfredo worked full-time at the Children's Nutrition Research Center, analyzing the effects of a school-based weight management program on Hispanic middle school students. He elaborated upon this work and developed a manual to assist elementary schools in incorporating health intervention programs. As a medical student, Alfredo participated in Baylor's Underserved Community Track and created informational videos on STIs and contraception for the Baylor Teen Health Clinic. He is fluent in Spanish.



Theresa Mauro, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Canisius College, BS in Biology, *Summa*

MEDICAL: Georgetown University School of Medicine

In college, Theresa was recognized as the top student in biology. Long interested in developing systems to provide care to the underserved, she led a co-ed international business fraternity, cultivating a lasting partnership with the local community to provide mentors for underserved children. She has worked in drug and alcohol rehabilitation for adolescents, developed relaxation training for girls aging out of foster care, and presented at Washington D.C.'s National Summit of Clinicians for Healthcare Justice as well as the Annual Conference on Intercultural Relations. Bringing her interests to bear on delivery of mental health services, she has examined how cultural beliefs contribute to mental health help-seeking disparities among racially and ethnically diverse youth, with a goal to eventually implement programs to meet the needs of these populations. Also an outstanding clinician, her recorded clinical exams in medical school were chosen as a model for training upcoming students. Throughout her studies, Theresa has been employed as a science tutor, a physical therapy technician, and a manager at Starbucks.

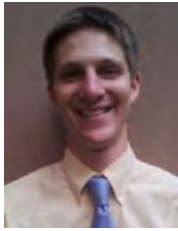


Travis Meadows, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Emory University, BA in Chemistry and Women's Studies

MEDICAL: Medical University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Travis graduated early from Emory, where he was recognized as one of the top 25 students who demonstrated promise for the future. He received multiple service awards for his work with students in the community as well as for leadership of his peers, and he was nominated to be Emory's NAACP Man of the Year. In medical school, Travis continued to excel as a leader and was selected as a Presidential Scholar for his commitment to interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration exploring complex social, political, and humanitarian issues. Travis was a peer mentor in MUSC's Office of Diversity, a mentor to male African-American high school and college students interested in careers in medicine, and he served as a faculty advisor for 25 high school students enrolled in the intensive National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. As a senior medical student, Travis was selected to for an elective in Psychiatry at Mount Sinai, sponsored by the Visiting Elective Program for Students Underrepresented in Medicine (VEPSUM). He was also awarded the American Psychiatric Association Minority Student Travel Award.



Justin Meyer, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Boston University, BA in Biology and Psychology, *Magna*
MEDICAL: State University of New York Upstate Medical University

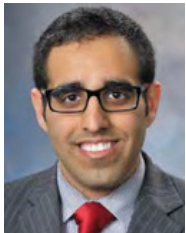
Graduating medical school in the top of his class, Justin has been recognized for excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and a dedication to service that has been lauded by both his faculty and peers. He was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society, received multiple Dean's Letters of Commendation for his academic work, was chosen to represent medical students' interests at the LCME Student Self Study Committee for AAMC accreditation, and was chosen as a Resident Assistant to counsel peers with academic or social issues. He held executive positions in the Psychiatry Interest Group and the Student Interest Group in Neurology, and he worked to ignite local high school students' interest in the brain. He tutored extensively in Biochemistry, Microbiology, Pharmacology, and Pathology. Faculty members have noted that they would choose him to treat their loved ones.



Katherine Pier, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA in Psychology, *Summa*
MEDICAL: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

An active teacher, organizer, leader, and writer, Kate entered Mount Sinai through the Humanities and Medicine Program. As Editor-in-Chief of Mount Sinai's art and literature magazine, she reinvigorated readership and funding. She helped pioneer Mount Sinai's first production of Vagina Monologues and organized fundraising for antiviolence/anti-abuse campaigns. She has been a mentor to first-year students, a tutor/TA in six classes, and a weekly seminar leader in Art and Science of Medicine. As president of the psychiatry student interest group, she devised a highly attended event featuring psychiatry, cosmetic plastic surgery, and cosmetic dermatology, and she is now investigating the prevalence of body dysmorphic disorder in patients undergoing cosmetic procedures. Working in Eric Nestler's lab, she presented findings on ketamine as a novel antidepressant for stress-induced pathology in mice, and she published a first author case report in the *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* on ECT for depression misdiagnosed as dementia. Kate lived in Argentina for a year before medical school, working in sales and designing ESL classes for orphans in Buenos Aires.



Rishi Sawhney, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Texas Austin, BA in Finance
MEDICAL: Baylor College of Medicine

Rishi has excelled in service and leadership. He was president of the UT chapter of Circle K International, for which he won the Most Outstanding President Award and his chapter the Most Outstanding Chapter Award, for the Texas-Oklahoma district. He created an alliance between Texas School for the Deaf and schools for the deaf in Mali, which included winning a funding grant from the Clinton Global Initiative. He further bridged his healthcare and business knowledge while interning at Gerson Lehrman Group. In medical school, Rishi founded and was co-president of Primary Care Progress, recruiting faculty members, receiving grants, and connecting students with quality improvement projects across the city. He was class rep for 3 years and delegate to the AMA. He served as Region 3 (TX, OK, KA, LA, AK, MS) Chair for the AMA's annual conference and as Vice Chair of a National Standing Coordination Committee. He worked to develop the curriculum for Baylor's Medicine and Management Elective as well as a series of lectures for students on psychiatry clerkships, and he has been mentor to a dozen first year students. Rishi has researched the relationship between testosterone/cortisol levels and motivation/actions in game theory experiments.



Kevin Zhang, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Southern California, BA in Biology

MEDICAL: Baylor College of Medicine

Moving from China to the US at 5, Kevin grew up in New Mexico, Minnesota, and numerous points in between. In college, he was named a Renaissance Scholar for his ability to excel in widely different academic realms. He evaluated progenitor cell retinal transplantation in rats and published his work in the *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*. His faculty and peers chose him to develop a supplemental curriculum to the core physics course at USC, and he taught 4 sessions per week for 150 students. He also taught physics to gifted high school students and nutrition to underserved middle schoolers. He co-founded an organization to coordinate a healthcare trip to El Salvador and created a lasting USC presence in the country; the organization eventually involved over 22 members per year. He has spent summers in the Middle East, China, and Thailand to gain a greater understanding of global affairs. Fluent in Chinese, he rotated in internal medicine at Jiao Tong University's Hospital in Shanghai. Awarded a merit scholarship to Baylor, Kevin continued his record of excellence on varied fronts, including completing research leading to publications in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, *Cornea*, *Journal of Glaucoma*, and *Dermatology Online*. He enjoys writing music and has developed a psychology and relationships social network site.



Rachel Zhuk, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Stanford University, BA in Philosophy

MEDICAL: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Rachel is a leader with a commitment to caring for vulnerable populations. She planned and co-led trainings in group communication and leadership for Palestinian, Israeli, and American teenage women, later translating her experiences into a novel course she created at Stanford. After college, she worked in healthcare policy at the National Center for Children in Poverty where she examined public assistance programs, presenting her work to advocates and policy-makers. In medical school, she was one of 12 students competitively selected for a longitudinal ambulatory care rotation spanning the 3rd year. This experience informed further leadership work in Mount Sinai's student-run free clinic in which she was a teaching senior, co-coordinator for HIV testing, and one of the student founders of the rapid HIV testing program. She created and delivered HIV counseling training to students and managed staffing, materials, and interface with the general clinic during the program's first year. She has presented scholarly work related to the clinic at Medicine Grand Rounds and nationally at the annual meeting of the Society for General Internal Medicine. She has also been an active leader in advancing medical students' knowledge of complementary and alternative medicine. She has researched CAM's role in palliative care for children with cancer and has contributed to Mount Sinai's recently accepted application to the Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine. She was the president of Students for Integrative Medicine and the curriculum director of an AMSA-sponsored rotation in Alternative Medicine. She is a yoga instructor and has studied traditional Chinese medicine at the Yunnan Provincial Chinese Medicine Hospital.



Incoming PGY-2

Kimberly Schreiber, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Loyola University, BA in Psychology, *Cum Laude*

MEDICAL: Loyola University College of Medicine

INTERNSHIP AND RESIDENCY: Obstetrics and Gynecology at Lenox Hill Hospital

Kimberly comes to us having completed 2 years of an Ob-Gyn residency. Kim was born and raised in Chicago, and took an early interest in studying the mind, writing her honors thesis on adolescent conduct disorder and ameliorative parental behavior training. After several years of full-time cancer research followed by volunteering in the far reaches of Appalachia, she worked full-time for 4 years as a counselor in an inpatient psychiatric unit, initially with geriatric patients and then with acutely ill adults. She ran group therapies, mastered crisis-intervention techniques for use with violent patients, and served as a task force representative to improve patient care. She was subsequently awarded a Harvard internship to train in aging-related research, and she soon published work on delirium (*Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management*) and on postoperative cognitive decline after cardiac surgery (*Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica*). In her clinical clerkships, she experienced an unforeseen passion for obstetrics and pursued an Ob-Gyn residency with a goal to provide a psychiatrically-informed approach to women's health. However, practicing psychiatry persisted as an unmet aspiration, and it is our good fortune that she's now returning to her longstanding interest in mental health care.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Department of Psychiatry – Matched Residents 2014



Physician-Scientist Research Track

Alexander Charney, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: New York University, BA, Anthropology

MEDICAL: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Alexander Charney is an up-and-coming psychiatrist and neuroscientist, currently earning his PhD in conjunction with commencing a residency in psychiatry. His interest, both in clinical practice and research, is in understanding the complex system of rules governing human brain function in both healthy and pathological states. Since 2011, he has been training under Pamela Sklar and Eric Schadt, two of the world's foremost experts on large-scale genomics and multiscale biology. His expertise lies in the genetic architecture of neuropsychiatric illness, having been the lead bioinformatician on the largest genome-wide association study of bipolar disorder to date, and played a lead role in developing a novel method that uses genetics to characterize the overlap between schizophrenia pathogenesis and antipsychotic mechanism of action. Alexander is also a primary investigator for the Living Brain Project, a multiscale, data-driven investigation of the human brain wherein a single living population is being studied using all of the tools available for human-subject neuroscience, including the powerful tools of molecular and cellular biology that to date have been applied primarily in the post-mortem setting.



Physician-Scientist Research Track

Nigel Kennedy, MBBS, PhD, MSc

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Manchester, BS, Biochemistry

GRADUATE (MSc): University of Manchester, Neuroscience

GRADUATE (PHD): Imperial College London, Neurogenetics

MEDICAL: University of London, St. George's Hospital

Nigel has had a longstanding fascination with neuroscience and psychiatry. Currently working as a neurosurgery specialty trainee in the UK, he previously obtained his graduate degrees conducting research in schizophrenia. His association study of potential pathogenic alleles in schizophrenia highlighted that genetic changes in neurodevelopmental pathways are important both in pathogenesis and for building a genetic haplotype most strongly associated with schizophrenia. In another project, using a novel gene capture technique based on RecA and the DIRECT method, he cloned and characterized a large trinucleotide repeat found to be overrepresented in DNA from patients with schizophrenia. Working with novel techniques in an immunohistochemistry study of human brain tissue, he stained for markers of neurodegeneration and showed an over-representation of inflammatory markers in patients with schizophrenia. He also developed a model system for imaging and identifying ligands as potential targets for clinical intervention in treating autonomic disorders, using immunofluorescent antibodies to the acetylcholine receptor in cultured rat dorsal root ganglia. As an undergraduate, he researched a lipid extrusion method to create multi-lamellar vesicles with surface-grafted polyethylene glycol, with the goal to create potential drug-delivery vehicles. Studying the scientific basis of psychiatric illness inspired him to become a clinician. During his clinical training and after, he became particularly interested in the use of surgical treatments, such as deep brain stimulation, for the treatment of previously intractable conditions. Hence his current position in neurosurgery and his forward-thinking commitment to a career in the research and practice of interventional psychiatry. He plans on working with Dr. Wayne Goodman and others involved in the current state-of-the-art DBS research at Mount Sinai.



PhD + Residency Track

Whitney McFadden, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: UC Berkeley, BA, Molecular Cell Biology and Neurobiology

MEDICAL: University of California San Diego School of Medicine

Having demonstrated a keen interest in the integration of basic science research, clinical

research, clinical medical practice, and patient/public advocacy, Whitney is ideally poised to become the psychiatrist-scientist for whom our “PhD+” program was developed. Whitney was awarded a fellowship in the HHMI/Medical Research Scholars Program at NIMH between her MS2 and 3 years, where she conducted research under the mentorship of Dr. Joel Kleinman. Her first study used differential RNA expression as an intermediate phenotype and showed that a genetic variant affects coding for the alpha7-nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. The clinical manifestations of variants of this gene include cognitive deficits in episodic memory and learning, making it a possible target in high risk patients with psychiatric disease and cognitive symptoms. In another project also studying schizophrenia, she identified genetic risk variants for altered white matter neurons in the DLPFC using microarrays. The risk genes were found to have an affect on actin cell remodeling, phospholipid second messenger signaling, and zinc ion transport carriers, suggesting cellular mechanisms by which these aberrant white matter neurons may persist and contribute to altered circuitry responsible for symptoms. She has presented her findings at the cumulative MRSP symposium and at the Society for Biological Psychiatry; both projects have papers in development. Her current research interest lies in continuing to investigate genetic risk variants involving altered neuronal migration during neurodevelopment. In addition to her facility with research, Whitney has progressed through the ranks of the American Medical Student Association’s leadership, first as UCSD Co-President, then Regional Director, then National Health Policy Coordinator, then Health Policy Chair. She helped develop a motivation scale for successful aging, served as Psychiatry Manager of the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic, travelled as a summer health intern in Peru, and she is a club triathlete. Whitney is also an exemplary colleague and compassionate physician, traits recognized by her induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.



PhD + Residency Track – PGY-2 entry

Kenechi Ejebe, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Carleton College, BA in Biology

MEDICAL: George Washington University School of Medicine

Born in Nigeria to a professor and a judge, Kenechi Gabriel Ejebe immigrated to Plymouth, Minnesota when he was 8 years old. He learned English in grade school ESL classes and

eventually went on to compete in speech and debate tournaments in high school, and he has continued to excel in academic pursuits and leadership. Kenechi’s academic interests center on psychiatric genetics, innovative medicines, and diagnostics. In college, he worked alongside Dr. Susan Singer, on research funded by the National Science Foundation, investigating the genetic regulation of inflorescence in plant-based systems. He was elected to the *Sigma Xi* chapter for his research contributions and was honored as the Student Commencement Speaker for the graduating Class of 2002. For 2 years after college, Kenechi conducted research under an Intramural Research Training Award at NIH with Dr. Henry Levin, studying yeast genetics and using yeast as a model system to characterize HIV reverse transcription; this work was published in the *Journal of Virology*. During medical school, Kenechi broadened his research interests to include social activism. He interned at the World Health Organization in Geneva and was co- Leader of Physicians for Human Rights at GW. He directed the GW Chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and served on SNMA’s National Board of Directors. These and other accomplishments lead to Kenechi’s 2006 selection as 1 of 10 American Medical Association Minority Scholars in the country. In 2008 during his third year of medical school, Kenechi received a Sarnoff Foundation Research Fellowship and joined the lab of Dr. Sekar Kathiresan at MGH/Harvard and the Broad Institute of Harvard/MIT. Kenechi’s focus was on statistical analysis of SNPs in common disease, and he led a GWAS study of approximately 8,000 African-American patients. Upon graduation from medical school, Kenechi joined the Kathiresan lab as a Research Scientist and in 2011 was recruited as a Senior Scientist to join Moderna Therapeutics, an RNA-based personalized medicine start-up company based out of Harvard and founded by Flagship Ventures. Moderna is pioneering an entirely new drug modality using mRNA therapeutics to produce, in vivo, human proteins or antibodies inside patient cells that are in turn active intracellularly or secreted into the serum. As a member of the founding scientific team, he was involved in due- diligence activities, IP strategy/execution, and conducted medical needs assessments of potential IND candidates. In 2013, Moderna entered into an exclusive research agreement with AztraZeneca and Alexion Pharmaceuticals. Kenechi has co-authored over 9 peer-reviewed journal articles including in *Nature* (x2), *Nature Genetics*, *PLoS Genetics* (x2), and *Human Genetics*. He is also named as an Inventor on 12 patent pending applications. For part of the past year, Kenechi worked in Mount Sinai’s Division of Psychiatric Genomics where, under Pamela Sklar and Kristen Brennand, he worked to establish disease models for schizophrenia using human induced pluripotent cells and investigated candidate genes of interest for biological follow-up using TALEN-based approaches. Currently a PGY-1 resident in psychiatry at Mount Sinai, Kenechi will be among the inaugural class for our NIH-funded PhD + Residency program.



Tiffany Christian, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Michigan, BS, Psychology

MEDICAL: Northwestern University The Feinberg School of Medicine

As a child in the first Hispanic family on the block, Tiffany was driven toward cultural reconnaissance. Always curious, she ambitiously sought out new experiences, like driving forty miles three times a week for her first job as a box office attendant at a historic film theater in Detroit. Listening, learning, and imagining became favorite pastimes, which she cultivated into a full scholarship for academic excellence at the University of Michigan. Curiosity continued to motivate her, and psychiatry was not long behind. Much of her non-curricular work in medical school, and before, has involved studying the differential experiences of varied groups of patients in varied settings. She travelled to prisons across Michigan, inspiring creative projects and helping curate a gallery opening showcasing prisoner's artwork. As the treasurer of AMWA, she helped high school girls develop an interest in the health sciences. She's studied the obstacles faced by low-income families, especially in their interactions with Chicago's healthcare system. She studied therapeutic interventions for women with perinatal depression. Also curious about the approaches and experiences of different professionals working with similar patients, she collected and analyzed data comparing the assessments of children's mental health made by child psychiatrists to those of school psychologists; this project broadened to a study of discrepancies between help-needed and help-received in public school settings.



Samantha Cumper, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Nebraska, BSE, Mechanical and International Engineering
MEDICAL: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

The recipient of multiple collegiate awards and scholarships, including from NASA, Sam was slated to enter a career in international engineering. She coordinated committees on engineering applications for water sanitation, water obtainment, solar panels, and clean burning stoves, worked as an oilfield service intern, supported production in a precision machining facility, and helped to characterize and model plasma properties to increase the efficiency of High Power Impulse Magnetron Sputtering to more efficiently deposit thin layers of metal onto surfaces. As the president of Engineers Without Borders, she led work leading to a project in rural Madagascar. She was the chapter president of the International Association for Exchange of Students for Technical Experiences. However, as Sam was deeply moved by the burdens of illness and poverty she encountered in international settings, she decided to enter medical school, with a focus on technological innovation. She initially matriculated into the MD/PhD program where she sought to develop artificial aptamers for diagnosing and treating *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria. However, reflecting on the monumental psychological impact of the global lack of basic needs, as well as local homelessness and rampant drug use in the South Bronx, she redirected her attention toward psychiatry, with a focus on global health and addiction. Sam won a Global Health Fellowship award to work in Uganda and recently worked with Mount Sinai's global mental health program in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Linda Drozdowicz, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Connecticut, BS, Molecular & Cell Biology

MEDICAL: Mayo Medical School

The top liberal arts and sciences scholar in her university graduating class, Linda studied dopaminergic innervation of the subventricular zone in the murine brain and published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. Linda is also a musician who started singing with professional choirs at age 10. She has performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Shubert Theater, as well as gone on tours in South Africa, Germany, Sweden, and England, including a performance with Diana Ross. During medical school, she taught herself to play the ukulele and guitar and was hired as the opening act for multiple concerts at the Rochester Civic Theater. Linda's work was published by and honored with an award from AOA for her essay detailing her encounters playing ukulele for a patient. Linda has engaged in many research projects during medical school, including in Psychiatry, Ob/Gyn, Palliative Medicine, and Medical Education. Her work has been published in *Contraception*, *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, *The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation*, and *Medical Science Educator*, and she has presented at national and international conferences. She studied suicide scripts as a predictor of eventual lethality and recently published a synthetic review on psychiatric adverse effects of pediatric corticosteroid use. She led a workshop for adolescent girls at the South Sudanese Youth Conference focusing on self-care, sexuality, and education, as well as an unrelated men's domestic violence rehabilitation group. Linda is a mentor, a teacher, a "Clown Doc (in training)," and was a Spanish interpreter in Honduras and at the UConn Migrant Farm Worker Clinic.



Irene Epshteyn, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Tufts University, BA, English

MEDICAL: SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

Irene was born in Babruysk, Belarus. Now at Downstate, she has been awarded AOA and is a member of the Honors Track Advanced Neuroscience Pathway program. Prior to beginning medical school, Irene worked for 2 years as a medical assistant, phlebotomist, and patient care coordinator at a medical practice in Brooklyn, taking histories, managing the front desk, and coordinating patients' continuity of care. During this time, she also worked in hospice care for team-management of terminally ill patients. In medical school, she conducted research with Dr. Jeremy Coplan, studying the effects of early life stress on cardiovascular parameters in nonhuman primates. In NYU's InSPIRES program, she interned under the mentorship of Dr. Dolores Malaspina, initiating a research project on the role of learned helplessness in schizophrenia. With no direct measure of learned helplessness in the battery of psychological tests for schizophrenia, she analyzed components of a cognitive assessment to identify a test which best approximates the phenomenon; she later adapted a learned helplessness scale for use in the schizophrenic population that Dr. Malaspina's team continues to apply. Irene is fluent in Russian. She raised money for and helped build a home for a family in rural Mexico. She practices yoga daily.

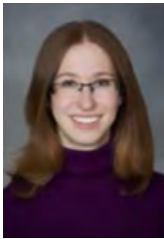


Jessie Hanna, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Rutgers University, BS, Exercise Science

MEDICAL: Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Jessie is the first member of his family to enter college. In 2007, he founded the non-profit Sean Hanna Foundation in honor of his brother who passed away from cancer; he remains the Executive Director and is responsible for day-to-day operations, including developing business plans and overseeing staff, membership, budget, taxes, marketing, revenue generating activities, company assets, and all other company resources. Jessie has led numerous blood and bone marrow drives/initiatives, and received multiple commendations. In 2007 he received the US Senate's National Jefferson Award for Public Service, and in 2010 the US Presidential Call to Service Award. He is currently a consultant working with the Rwandan Ambassador to the UN, as part of a team tasked with creating a pediatric cancer hospital in Kigali, Rwanda. He has been invited to the White House's Arab American Leader Summit. His commitment to service has continued to garner praise and distinction, leading to nearly a dozen additional awards and scholarships, including a tuition scholarship to medical school, where Jessie continued to flourish. He developed tools that teach psychiatry through plot and character analysis, and he developed and analyzed interactive modules to teach medical students fundamental concepts of disease progression through radiology; for this he received the Cum Laude Ribbon by The Society of Thoracic Radiology, and his work was published in *Medical Education*. He has given numerous presentations and written peer-reviewed publications in varied fields. Jessie has continuously maintained employment during his academic pursuits to provide support to his family, and he has been inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.



Lisa Linde, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Cornell University, BA, Biology

MEDICAL: SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Lisa will graduate AOA from SUNY Buffalo. One of her primary interests includes the clinical, educational, and administrative approaches to the LGBT population, with a goal to ameliorate the higher rates of depression, substance abuse, and suicide. In college, she was co-President of the Gay-Straight-Alliance, and her commitment to service continued in medical school as Vice President of Community Service for the SUNY Buffalo AMA chapter, to which she brought a heightened focus on LGBT health in addition to community work. Most recently she began working with the Office of Medical Education to better incorporate unique LGBT health issues into medical education. Prior to medical school, she conducted research at Weill Cornell studying the role of oxidative stress in the development of preeclampsia. At Georgetown she investigated the role of specific genes involved in vasopressin-induced antidiuresis, and she helped develop a model to study cerebral salt-wasting in subarachnoid hemorrhage and cultured bone marrow cells to compare osteoclast levels in hyponatremic and normonatremic rats. She was an EMT in college, and lived with families in Guatemala and Guadeloupe. She played trumpet in the Cornell band throughout undergrad, performing at football, basketball, hockey, and lacrosse games.



Lea Marin, MD, MPH

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA, Fine Arts

GRADUATE: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, MPH

MEDICAL: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Lea entered Mount Sinai through the Humanities and Medicine Program and the dual MD/MPH program. She has been described as the “ideal blend of humanities and science, of medicine and art,” having been a leader in these areas throughout her medical school career. She founded, produced, and acted in Mount Sinai’s production of The Vagina Monologues, raising more than \$30,000 for charities working to end violence against women. She founded V-Day at Mount Sinai. She founded the Sinai History of Medicine Society. She designed community health fairs, mentored students, taught children, curated the student art exhibition, and was Editor-in-Chief of Mount Sinai Mosaic: Art and Literary Magazine. For her MPH, she interned at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where she studied psychological and physical exposures from 9/11. She also evaluated health care educational needs of 10,674 community leaders from 56 East Harlem organizations; her results informed the curriculum of The Mount Sinai Community Roundtable: a 12-month course aimed at improving public health in East Harlem. Lea won the Humanities and Medicine Program Design Award, the Dean's Office Medical Student "Renaissance" Award, and the Student Council Award of Excellence. She is experienced in American Sign Language.



Brenda Ratemo, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Xavier University, BS, Natural Science

MEDICAL: Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Brenda grew up in Nairobi, Kenya where she witnessed first-hand the global stigma against mental illness. Over the course of her academic career, these experiences have led her to become increasingly involved in community outreach activities. As an undergraduate, she was awarded a Brueggeman Fellowship, which awarded her time to conduct independent research on the Kenyan health care system. This and other public health and humanity-focused projects led her to be the recipient of multiple awards, many for leadership. In medical school, she was on the board of the Student National Medical Association, which involved her in further outreach activities, both in the community as well as among minority medical students. One of only a few students awarded an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, she developed a program for elementary school students struggling to learn English. Brenda has published work—Beyond race and place: Distal sociological determinants of HIV disparities—in PLoS One, and she has conducted research on baby flamingoes in the Cincinnati zoo to identify respective parents. She is interested in developing a project to investigate ECT in Kenya.



Casey Smith, MD, JD

UNDERGRADUATE: University of Pennsylvania, BA, Psychology

LAW: New York University School of Law, JD

MEDICAL: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Casey received a Presidential Scholarship to UPenn, where he joined Martin Seligman in studying the effect of diathesis and stress in interpersonal and achievement domains. Since that time, he has been continuously successful, initially as a corporate developer during a computer company's period of greatest expansion and IPO. Next came law school at NYU where he was Dean's Scholar. As a Litigation Associate at Latham & Watkins LLP, he focused on securities fraud, insider trading, money laundering, and drug trafficking. At Heller Ehrman LLP in San Francisco, Casey focused on commercial class actions, consumer fraud, and false advertising, while supervising and mentoring junior attorneys. Casey has given much of his time in *pro bono* work: successfully representing Tibetan Buddhists in asylum proceedings, petitioning for orders of protection for battered women, obtaining asylum for torture survivors, securing visas for trafficked children, protecting voters' rights, and founding his firm's relationship with Immigration Equality to represent applicants in sexual-orientation and HIV-status based asylum proceedings. With a longstanding commitment to providing service for individuals in crisis and finding his *pro bono* work the most satisfying, he made the difficult decision to change careers. In medical school Casey has continued to be a leader guided by compassion and was honored with the Gold Humanism Award. Recently, his academic interest has centered on medical students' exposure to patient suicide, hypothesizing individual students' differing levels of investment, maturity, and sensitivity, and whether and how to involve these students in post-suicide reviews and discussions. Casey serves on Mount Sinai's admission and promotions committees, and he runs marathons.



Che-Yu Jeffrey Tai, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Yale university, BA, Psychology

MEDICAL: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Jeffrey is a man of exceptionally broad talents and experiences. He is not only academically outstanding and a speaker of four languages, he also embodies a generosity of service as well as strong leadership and mentorship. Prior to medical school, Jeffrey explored a career in business as a hedge fund market researcher, analyzing the trucking, water, and bedding industries. He also spent time as a sales and trading analyst at Morgan Stanley Hong Kong, researching companies in Asia ex-Japan for investment opportunities, monitoring merger arbitrage opportunities, and analyzing the renewable energy industry. He brought his business acumen to the Business in Medicine Group at Mount Sinai, and his ability to spot patterns to his research work in the Aging and Metabolism Lab at Mount Sinai, where he identified mediators of the protective effects of dietary restriction in a *C. elegans* model of Huntington's disease, providing novel targets for treatment. He has researched the effect of masked semantic relatedness on memory and cognition, and has synthesized 10,000 medical records looking for demographic predictors of adherence to medical treatment of TB in Asian-Americans. He founded the Huns Classical Arms Group, instructing students in classical weapons training, including sword, shield, spear, and bow, and he led team members in national and regional tournaments. He spent a summer in the US Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in Quantico, VA, as a Platoon Leaders Class Officer Candidate; he led a squad as fire team leader, worked to coordinate company actions, and trained in military leadership, military history, and strategy. He has a 2nd degree black belt.



Sara Wildstein, MD

UNDERGRADUATE: Macaulay Honors College at Queens College, BA, Art History and Honors in Math and Natural Science

MEDICAL: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

As a 4-year Howard Hughes Research Fellow, Sara investigated the contribution of neural activity to neuronal lifespan. Studying deaf and normal-hearing zebra finch songbirds, she found that neurogenesis in the song motor pathway correlated with the rate and extent of recovery from Botox-induced paralysis of the vocal muscles, and that deafening decreases neuronal incorporation in the caudomedial nidopallium. Her work was published in the Journal of Neuroscience and Behavioral Brain Research. She has investigated corneal collagen crosslinking for progressive keratoconus and ectasia using riboflavin/dextran and hypotonic riboflavin. At Mount Sinai, before medical school, she studied how mutations in myocyte channel gating contribute to catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia. For her contributions to research as well as her overall academic success, Sara received many high honors, including the Chancellor's Awards for Academic Excellence & for Outstanding Leadership & Community Service, the University Scholar Award, the Jonas Salk Award for Scientific Research, and was honored with presenting the Baccalaureate Address at her college graduation. Most recently, she has been studying quality of life before and after bariatric surgery, specifically related to patient coping mechanisms, including analysis of "phantom fat," body image, and perception of self and relationships after weight loss. Sara is founder and president of the Albert Einstein division of Students 4 Growing Interest For Transplantation, and she has studied abroad in the Galapagos and in Paris.