

**Emory University School of Medicine**  
**Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**  
**2013-14 General Psychiatry Residents**

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**PGY-1s**

**Aliana Abascal**



**A.A.S., Cornell University**

**M.D., University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**

Aliana is committed to achieving parity for mental illness and facilitating its de-stigmatization. Why should we be ashamed when we are depressed, but not when we are hypertensive? She has been dedicated to the community as evidenced by her extensive volunteer work. Aliana has been an active participant in the Wolfson Department of Community Service (DOCS), a student-run organization that oversees ten annual health fairs and weekly clinics for underserved patients. She also volunteered for Project Medishare, an organization partnering with Haitians to achieve quality healthcare and development services. Those who interviewed Aliana commented on her enthusiasm and resilience. In her spare time, she enjoys participating in outdoor activities, such as whitewater kayaking, hiking, and playing with her dog, Zoey.

**Taryn Abrams**



**B.A., Duke University**

**M.D., Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University**

Taryn's interest in medicine and psychiatry developed gradually in a non-linear fashion. Growing up with a psychiatrist father and a mother with a master's in counseling, Taryn was familiar with how mental health affects physical well-being. However, her early interests were in creative storytelling and the field of writing, and she chose to major in International Comparative Studies and Spanish at Duke. Her strong desire to master the Spanish language led her to undertake multiple study abroad opportunities in Spain, Mexico, and South America. Taryn continued to be drawn to medicine, and she decided to attend medical school. Her experience in stroke research solidified her interest for psychiatry as she found herself most interested in the behavioral symptoms of neurological disease. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, skiing, reading, running, and spending time with her husband and baby daughter, Avianna.

## **Makeda Agonafer**



**B.S., Emory University**

**M.P.H., Dartmouth College**

**M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine**

Makeda is from Atlanta, and attended Emory University. Her father is from Ethiopia, and Makeda speaks Amharic, an Ethiopian language, and is also proficient in French. She co-founded Artists for Charity Ethiopia and helped raise funds to build an orphanage for children with HIV infection. It was during her work in Ethiopia that she found her determination to be a physician. When she returned to the US, she enrolled in the Master of Public Health Program (MPH) at Dartmouth College. She completed her thesis on the Psychological Co-Morbidities of People living with HIV/AIDS after control of disease progression, which received special commendation from the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy. While at Morehouse School of Medicine, she received a student research fellowship award and conducted research in the Neuroscience Institute. Her work involved an investigation of metabolic and behavioral alterations in mice overexpressing circadian rhythm gene *Bmal1* in skeletal muscle.

## **Jason Carness**



**B.A., Tufts University**

**M.D., State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine**

Following college, Jason worked in Information Technology, first as a computer programmer, and then in a leadership position as a project manager. Missing the human element as well as his exposure to medicine by his father (an oral surgeon), he began to consider a career in health care, and decided to pursue medical school. Jason has an interest in working with underserved urban communities, sparked by his research work at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he interviewed HIV-positive Medicaid recipients about their health and health care. Jason's Dean's Letter commented that he was "one of the best and most intelligent students I've ever worked with." He was one of the few students in his class to be selected for the Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Society in recognition of exemplary service, integrity, clinical excellence, and compassion.

**Susane Dickson**



**B.S.N., University of Florida**

**M.D., University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**

Susan completed her residency in pediatrics and has practiced pediatric urgent care medicine as well as private practice. Her fast paced consultations seemed superficial, and she has felt drawn to psychiatry for a number of years. Susan has been active in volunteer work, and her interest in psychiatry was cemented with her experiences in working in a trauma camp for children. She plans to pursue fellowship training in child and adolescent psychiatry. Susan has 2 sons, who will both be studying at Emory.

**Kristine Goins**



**B.A., Rutgers University**

**M.D., University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey**

Kristine was born and raised in New Jersey. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Rutgers University. During her undergraduate years, she discovered her interest in serving disadvantaged populations and lessening health care disparities. Throughout college and medical school, she participated in youth science enrichment programs in which she taught and performed health-related activities with local elementary school children. Following her third year of medical school, Kristine sought an opportunity to develop her interest in clinical research and expand her knowledge of mental illness and addiction. She worked on two projects during this student scholar program. The first was a clinical trial evaluating the neuropsychiatric safety and efficacy of smoking cessation agents in patients with a history of psychiatric disorders. Her second project investigated the effect of nicotine and antipsychotics on cortisol levels. She is interested in community psychiatry, child psychiatry, and psychoanalysis. In her spare time, she remains actively involved in the community and also enjoys spending time at the gym or yoga studio.

**David Halverson**



**B.S., United States Naval Academy**

**M.D., University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health**

David grew up in Sheboygan, WI. After discovering the movie “TOP GUN” in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, he decided he “wasn’t going to be happy unless he was going mach 2 with his hair on fire,” to quote the movie. Thus, he began on a path that would lead to military service. After graduating from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, David began training as a Naval Aviator,

which culminated with him piloting the mighty F-14 Tomcat. David was combat trained and well-versed in landing on aircraft carriers, and he never had to eject, not even once. While in flight school, David met his beautiful wife, Charla. After leaving active duty service, David and Charla moved to Washington, DC, to climb the corporate ladder. It was during this time that David realized he missed a profession that espoused the values of military, such as honor and service to others, so he decided to pursue a career in medicine. David's interest in psychiatry began early in his military career, but it blossomed when he began seeing patients while a student, where he was able to spend considerable time with patients, hear their stories, and get to know the people behind the illnesses. During medical school, David transferred from the Navy to the Army National Guard, joining a medical detachment where he could participate in the healthcare of soldiers. While David has enjoyed research, volunteering, and other activities during medical school, the accomplishment he is most proud of is his two boys that were born during those years.

### **William "Howard" Hudson**



**B.A., University of Virginia**

**M.D., Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Health Sciences University**

Howard graduated from the University of Virginia, majoring in psychology. Following college, he spent several years as a musician. While living in Athens, GA, he was a vocalist and guitarist for the band Pacific UV, which released 2 records on the WARM label. The band's first album received 4 stars by Rolling Stone Magazine and is still widely distributed in the US and Canada. He decided to change paths and went to medical school. He had the opportunity to work with the Department of Psychiatry in a summer research fellowship on sex-related communication in multiple sclerosis patients and has presented his work at national meetings. Howard matched into a Pathology Residency at Cornell in 2012, but felt disconnected in the specialty and missed patient interaction which he previously thrived on and returned to psychiatry.

### **Emily Novik**



**B.A., Williams College**

**M.D., Sackler School of Medicine**

Emily has a longstanding interest and appreciation for the mind-body connection. Her volunteer work at Silver Hill Psychiatric Hospital completing patient intakes solidified her interest in medicine and psychiatry. Her medical school rotation evaluations describe her as a very talented individual and comment on her intelligence, motivation, maturity, and initiative. She has been involved in volunteer work providing medical services for the underprivileged populations in Israel. In addition, she has been active in an international project that provides life-saving heart surgeries and follow-up care for children who suffer from congenital heart disease. Emily also enjoys working out and traveling.

## **Andrew Owens**



**B.S., Clemson University**

**D.O., Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Andrew grew up in eastern South Carolina, and spent the majority of his summers working in the tobacco fields at his family owned farm. Andrew was a stand out from an early age graduating valedictorian of his high school class. Finishing up at Clemson University Magna Cum Laude, he continues to be a proud alumni and huge Clemson fan. Andrew excelled in medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Virginia Campus, and was selected to be a member of Sigma Sigma Phi honor society. The Dean's Letter commented that Andrew is "an exceptional student at the top of the class." Those meetings with Andrew described him as bright, thoughtful, mature, and compassionate. Andrew has an interest working with the underserved population and also in forensic psychiatry. Andrew had a multitude of volunteer activities during his time in medical school including working with rural patient education clinics, community prescription drug disposal, and medical informational sessions with high school students. In his spare time, Andrew enjoys traveling around the US, hiking, and kayaking.

## **Lan Chi "Krysti" Vo**



**B.S., University of Texas**

**M.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Southwestern Medical School**

Krysti has excelled in academics and graduated from University of Texas at Austin after only two-and-a-half years. In addition to academically excelling, Krysti has been active in community service, student organizations, leadership, and research. In her fourth year of medical school, she is pursuing a Distinction in Research and is investigating impulsivity and relapse of cocaine-addicted patients through analysis of fMRI neural activity and plans to pursue further research using neuroimaging. Krysti grew up in a Vietnamese household, and is also interested in cultural issues, particularly the social stigma attached to mental diseases and impact on individuals seeking treatment.

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**PGY-2s**

**Yusuf Ali**



**B.S., Morgan State University**  
**M.D., University of Maryland School of Medicine**

Yusuf graduated from Morgan State University. During college, he spent a summer as a Duke University NSF Fellow, which was a 12-week long experience of intensive research culminating with a poster presentation and publication in Cognitive Neuroscience research. Yusuf continued with his interest in research at the University of Maryland SOM and participated in multiple sclerosis research funded by the National Foundation for Multiple Sclerosis Research. His attending on his clinical rotations describe him as having a unique strength in his calm demeanor and comment that he works “impeccable under pressure.” Throughout college and medical school, Yusuf has served as a mentor for young adolescents from disadvantaged backgrounds in the Baltimore City Public School System.

**Nisha Fernandes**



**B.A., University of Minnesota**  
**M.D., University of Minnesota Medical School**

Nisha grew up in Bloomington, MN and went to undergrad and medical school there. She couples matched at Emory with her husband who is an internal medicine resident. During her undergraduate years, she volunteered in the child and adolescent inpatient unit and decided she wanted to pursue a fellowship in this field after residency. She started doing research in eating disorders as an undergraduate and published a paper based on her research. In medical school, she continued doing research focused on better understanding eating disorders and body dissatisfaction among minorities. She presented a research poster on the consequences of body dissatisfaction among high school students of different racial groups at the AACAP Annual Meeting. She took advantage of her medical school’s flexible MD program to spend 5 months working with pediatricians and psychiatrists in her hometown of Bangalore, India. She also spent some time in rural Bangalore working with public health workers to promote acceptance of mental health. She and her husband are really excited to be moving out of the Midwest and spending a few winters without snow!

**Constantine Galifianakis**



**B.S., University of Maryland**

**M.D., University of Maryland School of Medicine**

Prior to medical school, Constantine pursued an interest in film and worked for a major Hollywood production company. His interest in the stories of individuals and communities in this business drew him to psychiatry, and he began volunteering in the Los Angeles County Hospital's psychiatric emergency room. He later entered medical school after 2 years in the film industry. He was selected for the competitive Combined Accelerated Psychiatric Program which allowed him countless opportunities to explore the field of psychiatry. During medical school, he was also elected into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, placing him at the top of his class for qualities of humanism and professionalism. His Dean's Letter comments on his leadership abilities, warm personality, and strong work ethic.

**David Goldsmith**



**B.S., University of Maryland**

**M.D., Emory University School of Medicine**

I am very excited to be starting my psychiatry residency, and thrilled to be staying at Emory! I came to medical school with the intention of pursuing psychiatry, after spending time doing research in schizophrenia, neuropsychology, and functional neuroimaging at the University of Maryland as an undergraduate, at the National Institute of Mental Health, and later at Emory. After my first two years of medical school, I returned to the NIMH to further pursue my research interests in cognition, schizophrenia, and imaging genetics. Upon returning to Emory to finish medical school, I was excited to begin my clinical years and found my psychiatry rotations to be extremely rewarding. I hope to pursue a career in academic medicine, combining clinical work, research, and teaching. Though much of my previous work has been in the areas of imaging and schizophrenia, I am open and excited to see where my academic interests take me through residency and beyond. When not in the hospitals, you can find me playing guitar, rooting for my favorite Baltimore sports teams (go O's!), and playing with my daughter Sadie.

**Chelsea Hickerson**



**B.A., University of Tennessee**

**M.D., University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center College of Medicine**

Chelsea's performance in medical school was very impressive and she had consistently outstanding clinical evaluations. She has had a longstanding interest in psychiatry and human behavior, dating back to her college years. She is very

interested in the interrelationship between psychological variables and physical signs and symptoms. For her senior project she did a meta-analysis citing the effects of meditation on healing. She also worked as a research assistant studying the way borderline personality disordered mothers relate to their infants. Chelsea has been awarded many honors during her brief academic career, including the award for highest achievement from the psychiatry department at her medical school. In her free time, Chelsea enjoys reading, music, and travel.

### **Todd Hoffenberg**



**B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology**

**M.D., University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**

Todd was born and raised in the Atlanta area. He originally built a career in engineering after graduating from the Georgia Institute of Technology where he was a community leader, researcher, and teaching assistant. He continued his community involvement while working as an engineer before deciding to pursue medical education at the University of Miami's regional medical campus. There, he was a leader in multiple interest groups, researcher, and community advocate. He earned recognition as the most outstanding student in his 3rd year Psychiatry clerkship. Outside of his professional interests, he prides himself in his cooking acumen, and he previously competed in professional billiards tournaments.

### **Kathryn "Kit" Johnson**



**B.A., University of North Carolina**

**M.D., Howard University College of Medicine**

Those who met Kit on her interview day commented on her excellent interpersonal skills as well as her leadership qualities. She was a recipient of a Minority Student Award for Academic Achievement and she was in the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Society at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She earned the Curriculum Committee Award for Academic Achievement in her first year of medical school, which is given to the student with the highest GPA throughout the year. She also received the Hubert Humphrey Scholarship Award, which is another academic achievement based scholarship. She ended medical school in the top 10% of her class, something she is very proud of!

Outside of her studies, she finds balance by traveling, eating out, cooking, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. She dances and enjoys other performing arts.

**Susan Kirsch**



**Union College**  
**State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn**

Susan completed a portion of her residency in psychiatry at Cornell. Her initial residency was interrupted due to the birth of her first child and a move for her husband's fellowship training (her husband Andy is a pediatric urologist with an international reputation). Susan and her husband have 3 children, and Susan has stayed active raising them and has also been very involved in volunteer work. Those who met with her during the interview commented on her maturity and compassion. She is looking forward to returning to residency training.

**Virginia "Paige" Litz**



**B.A., Smith College**  
**D.O., Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Paige grew up in a small town in southwestern Virginia. She graduated with honors from Smith College, and began a career in the film and television industry in Los Angeles. She worked at several Hollywood studios, as a writer's assistant for singer-songwriter Bob Dylan and director Larry Charles on the film, "Masked and Anonymous," and as a stand-in for actress Judy Davis on the film, "Dark Blood." She is an alumna of the prestigious Warner Bros. Writers' Workshop. She also worked as a reporter for a California newspaper and covered several healthcare stories that would ultimately foster her transition to medicine and desire to work with underserved medical populations. Paige excelled in medical school and received "High Honors" or "Honors" in all of her basic science classes as well as her clinical rotations.

**Cristina Poscablo-Stein**



**B.A., Rutgers University**  
**M.P.H., George Washington University**  
**M.D., George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences**

After finishing college in her home state of New Jersey, Cristina moved to Washington, DC to do mammalian development research at the NIH as a Post-baccalaureate Intramural Research Fellow. She went on to complete an MPH at George Washington University and majored in epidemiology. While working on her MPH, she worked at the National Cancer Institute as a Pre-doctoral Cancer Research Training Fellow. Cristina has a passion for teaching and has held positions tutoring high school students and teaching a graduate level statistics course through her first 2 years of medical school. Her research endeavors during medical school were broad, ranging from the descriptive epidemiology

of lung cancer to the use of acupuncture in children with cancer to a review of mind body medicine in the treatment of depression, resulting in a number of presentations and publications. Cristina has been involved in a variety of extracurricular work, including medical volunteering abroad and serving on the steering committee for GW's Student Run Clinic. Her clinical evaluations in medical school consistently comment on her strong clinical skills and caring demeanor. Her interests in psychiatry include child psychiatry, trauma, and integrative approaches to the treatment of mental.

**Yael Schonherz-Pine**



**M.D., Sackler School of Medicine, Israel**

Yael has an excellent record to become a leading academic psychiatrist. She completed a very thorough clinical training that included 5 years of child psychiatry residency and also a 3 year program in psychotherapy at Tel Aviv University. She currently is a child psychiatrist in the center for ADHD & Learning Disorders at the Institute of Fatigue and Sleep Medicine in Israel. In this role, she diagnoses and treats sleep disorders in children and adolescents. In addition, she works as a psychiatrist in a national outpatient clinic for diagnosing and treating children and adolescents who suffer from ADHD and learning disorders. She has coauthored several publications on her research and is eager to continue to integrate clinical work with her research career.

**Mahalia Way**



**B.A., University of Michigan**

**M.A., University of California, Berkeley**

**Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley**

**M.D., Weill Cornell Medical College**

Haley was born to an eccentric and curious family beyond the reach of television reception in Southern Indiana. She grew up surrounded by the ill-conceived inventions of her ophthalmologist father, the arcane contents of her mother's antique store, and a variety of incompletely tamed wild animals and brothers. Although she expressed an interest in medicine early on, she was discouraged by her family who did not "believe" in female doctors. Undaunted, she began taking premed courses at the University of Michigan, only to be seduced away by Classical languages and literature. She went on to obtain a MA and PhD at Berkeley, writing a dissertation on violence and the body in Roman Comedy. While teaching Greek Mythology at Northwestern and Notre Dame, she became interested in how the stories cultures and individuals tell themselves dictate their expectations for what is possible and likely in the world. Several modern examples of myth in action were drawn from the world of economics, and she became interested in the role of story telling in bubble formation and branding. This led her to study economics at the University of Chicago, followed by a brief stint as an economic analyst in the Antitrust Division in Washington DC. Although the questions posed by economics about human behavior were fascinating, its daily practice proved fairly dull and many of its underlying assumptions – the existence of a "rational consumer," for one – turned out to be myths themselves. At this point Haley returned to her girlhood interest in medicine, now with a head full of fantastic creatures, stories, and languages, ancient

and modern. She attended Weill Cornell Medical College in Manhattan where she was editor of the Medical School's literary journal, and a regular attendee at the Moth Storytelling forum. She is currently attached to an eccentric Hungarian neuroscientist in New York with whom she now has a "skyplationship." She has also begun learning to kiteboard.

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**PGY-3s**

**Jessica Cohen**



**B.A., Yale University**

**M.D., Emory University School of Medicine**

Depending on whom you ask, Jessica is either the top student in her class or one of the top 10. That says a lot to me given that some of our best residents have been Emory students. In fact I challenge you to think of an Emory medical student who has not been one of our best residents. Jessica is exceptional and is a Robert Woodruff Fellow and received honors in seven of her eight clinical rotations including psychiatry (of course). She actively participated in research doing a nutritional study of Haitian children and she is presently studying a comprehensive care model for patients with HIV/AIDS, serious mental illness and substance abuse. She has volunteered extensively in projects such as the South Georgia farm workers Project and Physicians for Human Rights. She also is a club player in Ultimate Frisbee with three appearances in national tournaments and she is a marathon runner.

**Sarah Cook**



**B.A., Stanford University**

**M.B.Ch.B., Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland**

Sarah Cook is thrilled to be at Emory! As a Minnesotan with dual citizenship in the US and New Zealand, she pursued medicine in Ireland as she was eager to live in Europe and also reconnect with her Irish roots. Her background helped foster an interest in working with people from diverse experiences. Sarah loves art, yoga, reading, wine-tasting, and discovering new restaurants.

**Andrew Farkas**



**B.S., State University of New York**

**M.S., State University of New York**

**M.D., University at Buffalo State University of New York School of Medicine**

Andrew is a couple's match with Sheril (see below). In his personal statement Andrew stated that he had a "deep interest in public health, particularly relating to issues confronting the medically underserved." Andrew backs up this statement and has been actively involved in his community serving in a student run free clinic and in a rural geriatric clinic while he was in medical school. He received the Marek Zaleski award for academic achievement and community service. He also inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society and was awarded an undergraduate research grant for a project entitled: Cloning a novel serotonin receptor in *Aplysia californica*. Like many of our incoming residents he is a marathon runner.

**Cynthia Gillikin**



**B.S., Wake Forest University**

**Ph.D., University of Miami**

**M.D., University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**

Cynthia graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wake Forest after doing research on the ecology and evolution of seabirds that allowed her to travel to the Galapagos Islands and ecological research sponsored by the National Science Foundation. While at Wake Forest she was awarded the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for undergraduate students interested in scientific research. She matriculated to Miami University earning a full scholarship and the Michele R. Bowman Scholarship for researchers focusing on women's mental health. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. She earned her PhD doing research on the etiology, prevention and treatment of female adolescent substance abuse in the NIDA supported Center for Treatment Research on Adolescent Substance Abuse. Her attendings on all of her clinical rotations consistently described her as demonstrating "outstanding" clinical skills.

### **Khanh Ha**



**B.S., University of Portland**

**M.D., Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California**

As a child growing up in the bustling streets of Saigon, Khanh lived a relatively sheltered life, protected by her family from the many ills of a Communist country. Certain cultural taboos also remained enigmas to her despite inquiries. It was not until many years later, after having assimilated herself to Western culture, after seeing time and again how her family keeps quiet about struggles with mental illness, and after witnessing the sadness, fear, and eventual acceptance of mental illness in her patients and their families, did Khanh realize the crucial need for dialogue about psychiatric illnesses in her own community and her role in helping achieve this goal. Medical school experiences gave Khanh the clinical and research opportunities to embrace her newfound interests through multiple psychiatric rotations and through studying and publishing in the area of depression and quality of life. Khanh spent her PGY-1 year in Psychiatry at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where enriching experiences gave her a solid foundation to build on her career but where unfortunately the reality of limited resources led to the closure of a once great program. Having undergone program closure has taught Khanh many things, mainly that it is more important than ever to fight for those with psychiatric illnesses and to educate communities at large about these issues.

### **Matthew Hughes**



**B.S., Texas A & M University**

**M.D., Texas Tech University School of Medicine**

Matthew was characterized on his evaluations as “the best student I ever taught”. In his interviews with our faculty he clearly expressed an interest in developing his clinical skills although he has also been actively engaged in research with a national poster presentation at the Society for Neuroscience. In his interviews and recommendations, Matthew demonstrated that he has developed skills in patient care beyond what would be expected from a medical student. His clinical skills with a diverse patient population were described as “outstanding”. One supervisor stated that: “The types of skills that Matthew demonstrated while interacting with patients cannot be taught.” On his primary psychiatry rotation he was described as “the best student of the year” receiving the “outstanding student of the year” award from the department of psychiatry. He has developed a strong interest in community psychiatry while working at the Texas MHMR and a local transcranial magnetic stimulation clinic. He is also an accomplished lacrosse goalie and is engaged in numerous other athletic pursuits including scuba diving. He is also interested in “string theory” and we challenge the faculty to help him develop that pursuit.

**Sheril Kalarithara**



**B.S., Stony Brook University**

**M.D., University of Buffalo State University of New York School of Medicine**

Sheril is the recipient of a number of academic awards including the Presidential Scholar in each of her four years of college. She received the Deans Letter of Commendation for academic excellence for her outstanding performance in the first three years of medical school. She has also been an active participant in her community since high school, taking an important role in the student run free health clinic in Buffalo. In their recommendations, the faculty repeatedly described her as engaging and intellectually curious. This description matched what we noted during her interviews. Sheril has traveled extensively in India, Kuwait, Dubai, South Africa, Indonesia and Thailand. She has diverse interests including ballet, yoga, crew, rugby and was a boxer in college.

**Sipra Laddha**



**B.A., New York University**

**M.D., University of Buffalo State University of New York School of Medicine**

Sipra is well known to many of us as she traveled to Atlanta for a second visit. She received a Presidential Honors Scholarship at NYU, won the Rotary Club award for outstanding community service and traveled extensively spending one summer in India on a research project sponsored by the Medical Research Foundation. She was the editor of the Global Health Review and Undergraduate Medical Dialogue. In medical school she was involved in research in children with autistic spectrum disorders. She has a strong interest in the intersection of history, psychiatry and global affairs and published an article on the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 in the journal Global Affairs. She received multiple honors on her clinical courses including psychiatry and the lowest clinical grade she has received is highly satisfactory.

**Cliff Lin**



**B.A., Northwestern University**

**M.D., University of Chicago School of Medicine**

Cliff graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Northwestern. Cliff worked internationally including working on a neuropathic pain project with Abbott labs and helping to prepare the submission to the European version of the FDA. He also spent a year in Japan teaching English. He was attracted to Atlanta because of the multicultural feel of the city. He has exceptional recommendations describing his clinical and personal attributes. Compassionate was a word that was often

used to describe him in his recommendations. During medical school, he served in a student run health clinic for children on the south side of Chicago and helped develop a program to decrease smoking in elementary children.

**Nancy Martin**



**B.S., University of Notre Dame**

**M.D., University of New Mexico School of Medicine**

Nancy is a native New Mexican who couples matched with her husband David Martin in the Pathology department. She grew up in an Air Force family and has traveled throughout the world, including India, China, Tibet, and Thailand. She had some of the best recommendations of any candidate we interviewed including multiple references to her work with terminally-ill and underserved, indigent populations. She was inducted into the Gold Humanism Society and received honors for her research entitled “The Impact of Ethanol Exposure on Maternal Behavior in Primiparous Mice”. She has an interest in medical entomology and published an article in Clinical Toxicology entitled “Recurrent, persistent, or late, new-onset hematologic abnormalities in Crotaline snakebite” while in medical school. She enjoys running, Bikram yoga, cooking, and supporting local farming efforts. She won a national recipe contest and was featured in Hallmark Magazine. Her interests in Psychiatry include women’s health and addiction.

**Abigail Nash**



**B.A., Bryn Mawr College**

**Ph.D., University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School**

**M.D., University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School**

Abigail received A’s on all of her clinical rotations and wrote in her personal statement that she “believes the science of psychiatry is in its young stages and quickly approaching its growth spurt.” She has the skills to combine the understanding of proteins and the role of biophysics in drug development with the clinical care of complex patients. Her PhD in Molecular Biophysics was in a graduate program that included the Nobel laureate Johann Deisenhofer. She published her research as a first author in the journal Biochemistry. She is also a leader in her medical school, graduate program and community. She arranged research symposia to mentor women in the graduate school as well as serving as the first Chairperson for an International Symposium on Photosensory Receptors in Barga, Italy. A friend of mine at UT SW who knew she was interested in Emory wrote the following to me about Abby: “What I want to add is that she is simply a delightful person- warm, thoughtful, mature, big heart, and deeply reflective”. In addition she is an avid volleyball and soccer player.

### **Ryan Sultan**



**B.S., Trinity College**

**M.D., Drexel University College of Medicine**

A native New Yorker, Ryan fled the northeast for the warmer weather of South! He has been described as working “tirelessly in service to his patients”. If there was a word that was repeated in his references and evaluations it was “enthusiastic” and this was evidenced by his energy and collegiality on his interview day.

Professionally, Ryan came to Emory for its broad clinical experiences, research opportunities and psychoanalytic training. He is currently involved in a study with Dr. Erica Duncan investigating the increased risk of ischemic cardiac events from atypical antipsychotics. Additionally, Ryan is working on an article concerning learning disabilities and medical education. He is a candidate in the psychoanalytic institute as well as a member of the Grady Ethics Committee. Ryan plans to complete analytic training and pursue a fellowship in child psychiatry.

### **Yilang Tang**



**M.S., Capital Medical University, Beijing**

**Ph.D., Peking University, Beijing**

**M.D., Peking University, Beijing**

Yilang grew up in rural China and decided he wanted to be a doctor when he was a very child. He completed a psychiatric residency in Beijing and was very active in promoting mental health in China. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Chinese Association for Mental Health and a columnist for a magazine on mental health. He was also involved in the establishment of the very first drug abuse treatment center in China. He came to the U.S. as a NIDA fellow to pursue advanced training in genetic research and worked with Joe Cubells, Kerry Ressler and others on the genetics of mental disorders, substance abuse, PTSD and autism before he started residency. He has authored more than 30 peer reviewed publications and is first author on more than 10 book chapters. Yilang was awarded a NARSAD Young Investigator Award in 2007. Though he has had extensive training and experience in basic research, Yilang always considers patient care as his first love. His clinical interests include psychotic disorders, substance abuse and biological treatments. In his personal time, he loves Chinese classical music, detective stories, and is also a devoted father and family man.

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**PGY-4s**

**Andrea Crowell**



**B.S., Northeastern University  
M.D., Stanford University School of Medicine**

Prior to medical school, Andrea spent 18 months as an Emerging Infectious Disease Fellow at the CDC and 18 months after that performing functional neuroimaging in schizophrenic subjects at Harvard Medical School. At Stanford Andrea was in the Medical Scholars fund as a Doris Duke fellow. She studied neuronal signals measure in subjects undergoing DBS for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, dystonia and tremor. She has a number of publications in this area and she has a patent!

**Rachel Goldberg**



**B.A., Cornell University  
M.P.H., Emory University Rollins School of Public Health  
M.D., Emory University School of Medicine**

Rachel is well known to many of us. We have been recruiting her for two years based on her excellent clinical skills, character and potential as a psychiatrist. She has a remarkable background. At Cornell, she was a three-time All American athlete, received 4 varsity letters, and set Cornell school record and won Ivy League vault title in 2004. Oh yeah, she also got a 3.95 GPA and a BA in Psychology. She has been involved in neurosciences research since she was an undergraduate (worked as a research assistant in the Center for Medical Genomics) and continued her research at Emory evaluating the effects of atypical antipsychotics on arterial compliance.

### **Bruce Hill**



**B.S., Samford University**

**M.D., University of Alabama School of Medicine**

After graduating from the University Of Alabama School Of Medicine in 1994, Bruce completed internal medicine training at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1997. He enjoyed teaching as a Chief Medical Resident and Clinical Instructor in 1998 and went on to complete a Rheumatology/Immunology clinical fellowship in 2000, receiving the REAP Medical Scholar Award through the VA to do basic science work on nitric oxide in African-American lupus patients. He practiced private practice rheumatology in the Charlotte NC area for 11 years. A brief visit with Dr. John Sarno at NYU supported his growing interest in psychosomatic medicine and psychiatry in 2005.

### **Maryam Hosseini**



**B.S., Emory University**

**M.S., Georgia State University**

**M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine**

Maryam graduated from Emory with a BS in Neurosciences and from Georgia State with a Masters in Neuroscience. She has been very active in the community at Grady and is involved in the Rape Crisis Center and tutoring high risk children in reading as part of the Emory Read Program. One of her hobbies is kickboxing. She was heavily recruited by us over the past year and we were delighted that chose to come to our program.

### **Marcus "Bo" Houston**



**B.A., Davidson College**

**M.P.H., Emory University Rollins School of Public Health**

**M.D., Emory University School of Medicine**

Bo is an exceptional young man and I have had the pleasure of watching him develop as a physician over the last several years. He has a number of academic achievements at Emory including The Helen Miller Award, Reynold's Program Annual Art and Aging Award and the Betty Ford Center Scholarship. He has been a leader in his class with a strong and enduring commitment to his community. He has worked in Dr. Cubell's lab and has unlimited potential. He is also a committed husband and father to his one year old Anya.

**Tammy Saah**



**B.A., University of California**

**M.A., San Jose State University**

**M.D., American University of Beirut School of Medicine, Lebanon**

Tammy's personal essay starts with her experiences of going to medical school in a war-torn country. Even though she was born and raised in California, Tammy chose to pursue medical school abroad in Lebanon. She has done research at the Transplant Immunobiology Laboratory at Stanford, research in PTSD in the Lebanese population, as well as research in redefining Axis V and assessing the Burden of Illness of MDD. She has two peer-reviewed articles published. With her global travel, she brings a number of unique experiences to our program, such as providing free medical care with the Palestinian Red Crescent. She is interested in personality disorders, addiction psychiatry and psychoanalysis.

**Melissa Smith**



**B.A., Lagrange College**

**M.D., University of South Alabama College of Medicine**

Melissa grew up in the small town of Selma, Alabama. She played soccer at Lagrange College where she received 4 varsity letters in soccer. Melissa moved to Mobile, Al for medical school to find that there were no women's soccer teams in the area so she took up racing in triathlons. She graduated from medical school in 2009 and completed two categorical general surgery years at Atlanta Medical Center. She is currently playing soccer for a women's team out of Piedmont Park, and she is still racing in triathlons around the southeastern United States.

**Monica Ward**



**B.S., Emory University**

**M.D., University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**

Monica has a unique background and was a probation officer before medical school. She comes from a family steeped in the legal system- her father is a circuit judge, her mother a family mediator with the courts and her sister is a lawyer. She graduated from Emory after being inducted in the Sociology National Honor Society. She has a long history of involvement in her community including volunteer work with children and cancer survivors and continued this work throughout medical school.

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**PGY-1s**

**Stephanie Schmitz**



**Northwestern University  
University of Maryland School of Medicine**

While in medical school, Stephanie has held numerous leadership positions. Her passion for social, healthcare, and reproductive justice is evident in the work that she has performed as Vice President of University of Maryland's American Medical Association Chapter, coordinator for Medical Students for Choice, and a Spanish Interpreter for Healthcare for the Homeless and abroad. She is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and currently serves as the President of the school's AOA chapter. In her free time, she enjoys baking, traveling, and performing as a salsa dancer.

**Marsha Stern**



**Tulane University  
Tulane University School of Medicine**

Marsha graduated from Tulane University, where she was a varsity rower. As an undergraduate, Marsha received departmental honors and the Ann Royal Arthur Memorial Award in German. While in medical school, Marsha also pursued a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology. Her MPH project dealt with prostate specific antigen screening and mortality. She hopes to study quality improvement measures in the future. Marsha has been a member of the MD/MPH executive committee and the Owl Club, a student group that evaluates and rewards teaching at Tulane. In her spare time, she enjoys running, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

## **PGY-2s**

### **Daniel Cucco**



**B.S., University of Maryland**

**M.D., State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine**

Daniel was born in Brooklyn, New York. His solid performance in medical school is a demonstration of his commitment to academic excellence. His evaluations consistently mentioned his solid clinical skills and medical knowledge as well as his reliability and work ethic. During medical school he served on the curriculum and educational policies committee as a class representative. Daniel also had the opportunity to take two electives that were not required of him, one in emergency medicine and the other in neuroscience, which he passed with honors. He also worked on gathering data for multiple clinical research projects for the department of Emergency Medicine. In his free time he enjoys working on creative projects using graphic design and film. One of his recent projects was designing t-shirts for his medical school's dodge ball team.

### **Vera Tate**



**B.S., University of Central Arkansas**

**M.S., University of Central Arkansas**

**M.D., University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine**

My interests can be summed up in one word-disparities. I am primarily interested in improving mental health access through working with primary care physicians in rural or underserved communities. In addition I have an interest in facilitating the ongoing work to decrease the stigma associated with seeking mental health services in disadvantaged/minority populations as well as globally. So whether it is here in the States or abroad, I would like to work to close the gap and to improve access to mental health providers. In my spare time, I enjoy laughing with family and friends, writing, and traveling.

### **PGY-3**

**Erika Heard**



**B.S., Spelman College**

**M.D., Duke University School of Medicine**

Erica has a full scholarship to Spelman and was elected to the Golden Key, Mortar Board, Beta Kappa Chi, and Alpha Epsilon Delta national honor societies in recognition of her academic achievements. In college she spent a summer studying cellular pathways involved in replication of HIV and a summer at Washington University examining the effectiveness of a community intervention for sickle cell disease. She presented the latter research at the National Sickle Cell Disease Association. Erica matriculated to Duke earning the Wachovia Strickland and Davidson Council scholarships. At Duke Erica studied the mediating effects of social support on perceived stress, depression and hypertension in the African American population. This work will be published in the Journal of the National Medical Association. In the summary in her Dean's letter she was described as an exemplary student who was repeatedly commended for learning, dependability, responsiveness to feedback and interactions with patients and her teams.

### **PGY-4**

**Aaron Gluth**



**B.S., Roanoke College**

**M.D., University of Virginia School of Medicine**

Aaron's personal statement emphasizes his commitment to the medically underserved- an attribute that Emory residents need to succeed in our program. He demonstrated this commitment on his psychiatry rotation where he was described as "exceptional" and among the "top 10 students that I have taught". In fact the faculty "concluded that he would become a leader in his discipline". These same qualities were evident during his interview day and we are confident that Aaron will add to an already accomplished Med/ Psych program.

## **PGY-5s**

### **David Mays**



**B.S., Emory University**

**M.D., Emory University School of Medicine**

Dave Mays is the oldest of 3 children and enjoys playing music, outdoor activities and watching sports. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002 with Bachelor's degrees in English Literature and Neuroscience. He has been in Atlanta since, and graduated from Emory University School of Medicine in 2009. His clinical and research interests include general internal medicine, community mental health and addiction, and public health issues such as access to care for the underserved and health care system structure.

### **Dejuan White**



**B.S., Florida State University**

**M.D., Florida State University College of Medicine**

Dejuan was born in Jacksonville, Florida. He remains active on several student boards while at Florida State such as vice-president of the Medical Student Council (MSC), served as the secretary of the Christian Medical Association (CMA) and as the Executive at Large for the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). He has a passion for reaching out to others that are interested in pursuing medicine as a career.