



## University of Maryland Emergency Medicine/Pediatrics Residents

### Class of 2021 (PGY5)

#### **Prianka Kandhal, M.D.**

**Medical School:** Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University



#### **Cathya Olivas-Michels, M.D.**

**Medical School:** University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

Hi guys! My name is Cathya Olivas, though recently changed to Cathya Olivas Michels. I just graduated from the University of TN College of Medicine in Memphis, TN.



I was born and raised in Memphis, home of the barbecue, fried chicken, and Elvis. My parents immigrated from Chihuahua, Mexico a couple months before I was born. So although Memphis is my home, Chihuahua is where most of my family lives and where I spent most of my summers as a child.

I've lived in TN most of my life, going to catholic schools throughout elementary and high school. Then, I went to Nashville for undergrad at Vanderbilt University, where I studied Molecular & Cellular Biology and French. I took a couple of years off after college, to live abroad and practice my French; then I returned home to apply to medical school.

I told my mother when I was 6 that I wanted to be a doctor and be able to buy her a big house. So far I have lived up to ½ of the plan!

I am so happy and proud to be here training at the University of Maryland Medical Center in my two favorite specialties-- pediatrics and EM! I am so thankful and humbled to be learning and working with such an amazing group of people.

Please feel free to contact me about the EM/Pediatrics program, the city, or visiting rotations (I visited UMMC July of my fourth year in medical school). I'm happy to help!

## Class of 2022

### **Beatrice Leverett, M.D.**

**Medical School:** University of Washington School of Medicine



I grew up in Fairfax, VA, but moved to Seattle, WA when I was eighteen and spent nearly ten wonderful years there. I attended both college and medical school at the University of Washington. During college, I spent four years working as an emergency department scribe, where I quickly grew to love the dynamic and fast-paced field of emergency medicine. However, I also worked as an assistant preschool teacher and a babysitter, and developed a passion for working with and caring for children that persisted as I completed my medical education. The University of Maryland's combined residency program in emergency medicine and pediatrics is the perfect opportunity for me to blend these overlapping areas of interest. Additionally, I am very interested in policy and advocacy, and believe that my combined training will prepare me to serve as a strong advocate for vulnerable populations of all ages.

When I am not working, I enjoy reading, writing, hiking, and baking. I am also an avid runner, and hope to run the Baltimore marathon this fall! Most of all, I love spending time with my husband, my seven-year-old stepson, and my extremely large and cuddly orange cat.

### **Natasha Smith, M.D.**

**Medical School:** University of Arizona College of Medicine



I grew up in Denver, Colorado, and have a great love for the outdoors. I enjoy hiking, whitewater rafting, skiing, snowboarding, waterskiing, ice skating- you name it! The tallest mountain I have hiked is Mount Bierstadt, with an elevation of 14,060 feet. Breckenridge in Summit County is one of my all-time favorite vacation destinations. After high school, I moved to Vancouver, British Columbia to complete my undergraduate degree in Religious Studies and Applied Linguistics at Trinity Western University.

When I moved to Tucson, Arizona after college, I decided to pursue medicine as a profession. I ended up going to medical school at the University of Arizona in Tucson, which has a strong emphasis on rural health, global health, and helping local underserved communities. While in medical school, I had the privilege of traveling to two developing countries for global health rotations. This was a great experience to have, because I would like to work long-term in developing countries.

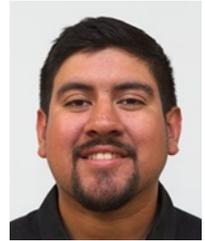
I am now very excited to be a part of the University of Maryland Medical Center's Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics combined residency program. I was drawn to the University of Maryland because this institution is very active in advocating for the underserved, both locally and abroad. Baltimore is a great city, and I am thoroughly enjoying the combination of outdoor activities and city attractions. I look forward to five great years!

## Class of 2023

### Jonathan Priego, M.D.

**Medical School:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine

I was born and raised in El Paso, TX and attended The University of Texas at Austin for undergrad where I majored in Human Biology with a concentration in Health and Human Disease. For medical school, I returned to El Paso to attend Texas Tech University where I decided to pursue both pediatrics and emergency medicine which brought me to the University of Maryland! I have one younger sister who is currently attending medical school and my parents live in Texas with our dog and cat. In my free time, I enjoy cooking, sports, traveling, hanging by the pool, and just going on new adventures. I am excited to be starting a new life in Baltimore for the next 5 years and look forward to exploring this vibrant city!



### Rachel Wiltjer, D.O.

**Medical School:** New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine

I was born in Los Angeles, CA and moved to NJ in the fourth grade. I went to New Jersey Institute of Technology for undergrad and New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine for med school. I'd decided on a career in medicine at the ripe old age of 4 (although I wanted to be a space doctor at that time) and became an EMT at 16. I rode through med school and ended up torn between Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics. I decided not to choose and here I am! I enjoy cooking, eating, reading, running from zombies, and crocheting.



## Class of 2024

### Kelsey Johnson, D.O.

**Medical School:** Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine

I was born and raised in Seattle, WA, and stayed in the Pacific NW all through undergrad at Western Washington University, and medical school at Pacific Northwest University. In my free time, I enjoy camping, paddle boarding, Seattle Seahawks football, and eating good food (always on the lookout for a restaurant recommendation)! I was fortunate to spend a year of medical school in western Montana and hope to return there after residency to practice both general pediatrics and emergency medicine.



### To-Lam Nguyen, M.D.

**Medical School:** University of Maryland School of Medicine

Triple Terp here and probably lifelong Marylander! I was raised in Waldorf, Maryland for most of my life. My parents are still there now. When I was younger, I wanted to be a pediatrician. I've always loved kids. For a brief period in high school, I thought I wanted to be a pediatric oncologist after volunteering at Inova Fairfax Hospital. I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland in College Park. During college, I had the wonderful opportunity to be an ER scribe at a nearby hospital called Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. That was where I fell in love with emergency medicine. I still loved pediatrics, but I did like the acuity of the adult patients in the ER. I was lucky to have attended medical school here



in Baltimore at the University of Maryland. Little did I know my absolute dream program was offered right here. EM/Peds- it's the best of both worlds!

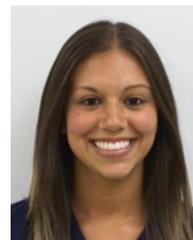
In my spare time, I like to run, practice yoga (started during medical school and got my RYT-200 certification), go hiking, travel to new places (looking forward to going back to Vietnam, El Salvador, and Ecuador), and...sleep. I attempted to pick up sewing a little over a year ago and have made a few garments including jeans, a dress, and a Vietnamese dress called áo dài.

I'm so excited to be staying here in Baltimore for the next 5 years and I'm thrilled to be part of the Peds and EM families!

## **Class of 2025**

### **Raven Crusco, M.D.**

**Medical School:** St. George's University School of Medicine



I have always been a New Yorker... born and raised. Lived on Long Island my whole life until moving to Brooklyn a few years ago. I went to undergrad at Binghamton University and then med school at St. George's University where I got the chance to experience Caribbean life for 2 years followed by 2 years of clinicals in Brooklyn. So basically I thought I'd never leave NY. But then, I found out about this amazing program at the University of Maryland and thought Baltimore should be my new home. I have always loved pediatrics and emergency medicine so I knew this combined program would be an amazing opportunity for me to pursue both specialties. I am so excited to live here for the next 5 years and learn amongst so many wonderful faculty and residents! In my spare time, I love to hangout with my 2 dogs. We love being outside, mostly at the beach but also just walks around the neighborhood and to the local parks. I also thoroughly enjoy finding new restaurants because I just love food. And then, of course, dessert as well.

### **Elizabeth Ogunsanya, M.D.**

**Medical School:** George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Services



"Ba wo ni!," which means hello in Yoruba, and is the native language my family speaks and is the ethnic group I belong to in Nigeria. I was born at PG hospital in Cheverly, Maryland and grew up in the local area. I went to high school in Lagos, Nigeria and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh majoring in biology and anthropology. I completed a post-baccalaureate program at Drexel in Philadelphia for 1 year prior to attending The George Washington University for medical school in our Nation's capital. A career in medicine came naturally to me because my mother is a pediatrician. I had the privilege of watching her complete residency and found her own practice. As an emergency medicine and pediatrics combined resident, my career interest includes adult emergency medicine and primary care pediatrics. I also have a great interest in global health and have been on multiple international medical trips, in addition to hosting an annual Christmas Charity Ball in Nigeria to raise money for orphanages in need. Last, but certainly not least, I am passionate about social justice and using my roll as a physician to advocate for fair treatment of minority and vulnerable populations in America. Black lives matter. In my spare time I like to play candy crush on my phone and watch Nigerian movies. I am extremely passionate about fitness and am a certified group fitness instructor. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I taught an "Afrobeat" spin class at my local gym. I also have been an AAU basketball coach for high school age girls in PG county. I have

recently picked back up playing the keyboard and outdoor running. If you see me around the hospital please say hello!