



University of Maryland Pediatric Residents – Class of 2024

Sara Abdelnour, D.O.

Medical School: Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine



I was born in Egypt, and grew up in Germantown, Maryland since the age of 10. I attended University of Maryland, College Park (Go Terps!) for my undergraduate education and majored in Physiology/Neurobiology. I was on the path to becoming an optometrist when I realized that I preferred to care for patients more holistically and that I more specifically loved working with Children. I then took two years off to delve in biomedical research before moving to Blacksburg, VA for medical school. My love for pediatrics was reinforced when I had the opportunity to work with children at an orphanage in Punta Cana during an international medical outreach trip.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy spending time with my husband, family, and friends, trying new restaurant, traveling the world, and Offcourse reading or watching the Harry Potter Series!

I am thrilled to be back in Maryland and to be a part of the UMMC pediatrics family!

Megan Aidoo, D.O.

Medical School: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine



My family is originally from Ghana in West Africa, but I was born in Virginia and raised in Delaware for a majority of my life where I eventually went to the University of Delaware for Undergrad. During undergrad I really found my love for mentorship, particularly in underserved communities to help minority and first generation students gain access to higher education. I went on to receive an Honors of Science in Medical Diagnostics and then attended medical school at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. In my free time, I enjoy powerlifting, binge watching tv shows, and spending time with my friends trying new things. I'm hoping to subspecialize after residency but I'm super excited to serve, teach and treat the amazing kiddos around Maryland!

Shannon Bolten, M.D.

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine



I am a big Maryland fan! I grew up in Ellicott City, and attended University of Maryland, College Park for college where I studied Cell Biology and Genetics as well as Spanish. I then came to Baltimore for medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where I have gotten to know so many amazing people. My husband and I were thrilled to couples match here in Baltimore, Maryland for residency. I have always enjoyed working with families and children in the community and am so glad that I was able to bring that together with

the study of medicine and biology. In my free time, I like to spending time outdoors, exploring places like Patapsco and Gunpowder Falls, as well as baking treats for friends and trying new recipes at home!

Elizabeth Cochran, M.D.

Medical School: The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University



Hi! I was born and raised in North Carolina. I am one of four kids in my family and the only girl; I have three younger brothers (who are all taller than me now)! I went to Wake Forest University for undergraduate (Go Deacs). After graduating, I worked as a medical scribe in an outpatient pediatrics office and then worked as an English high school teacher. I went to medical school at Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. This is where I met my fiancé, Andrew Piner, who is an Emergency Medicine resident at University of Maryland! I am interested in primary care pediatrics, as well as community involvement and advocacy. In my free time, I love spending time with friends and family, attending sporting events, trying new restaurants, exploring the outdoors, and binging reality TV shows. I am so excited to be spending the next three years learning about Pediatrics at the University of Maryland!

Kristina Cronise, M.D.

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine



I grew up in Western Maryland and did my undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. After graduating, I worked at the NIH National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland for a year doing research. I then moved back to Baltimore for med school at UMSOM. Over the past four years, I have loved exploring the Baltimore area and trying many food options that Baltimore has to offer, and I am so excited to be staying here for residency!

In my spare time, I love playing basketball and watching sports! I also love reading - particularly sci-fi and fantasy. My favorite book series is the Lord of the Rings trilogy. I love getting lost in a good story, which is part of why I also enjoy playing Dungeons & Dragons. My friends from med school and I have a running campaign that has been going for four years now. If I'm not with my friends and family or working at the hospital or clinic, one place you can always find me is with my dogs. I have two dogs, Oliver and Scarlett, who live at my family home in Western Maryland, and I love each of them to pieces!

Jacqueline Doyle, M.D.

Medical School: Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine



I was born in Atlanta, GA and moved around a couple times before my family moved to Massachusetts, where we stayed for 10 years. Then, I went to undergrad at Stony Brook University in New York, and finally medical school at MUSC in Charleston, SC. I'm excited that I ended up somewhere in the middle here in Baltimore. I can't wait to explore the city and learn everything about pediatrics from the kids here! I am thinking that I'll do a cardiology fellowship after residency but I have a lot of other interests within pediatrics as well. Outside of the hospital, I have many houseplants that I love and a sweet bernedoodle puppy! I am looking forward to taking him hiking nearby and finding a good place that we can use my kayak.

Cynthia Gao, M.D.**Medical School:** University of Maryland School of Medicine

Hello! I was born and raised in Montgomery County, Maryland and attended undergrad at the University of Maryland, College Park where I majored in Physiology and Neurobiology and minored in sustainability! After graduating, I spent a year traveling to Spain, teaching English there, and eating my way through Europe! I came to University of Maryland for medical school and fell in love with this place, so I knew it was where I wanted to be for residency. What I love most about this place are the people. These people are the people who always have your back, are there to support you when you need it, help you in any way they can, and have a blast with you outside of school/ work hours! I've always known I wanted to work with children and I am currently considering a career in neonatology with an interest in medical education, but am excited to see all that pediatrics has to offer! I am so happy to be a part of the Baltimore community, working and living here in this amazing city! Outside of work, you will see me teaching yoga, hanging out with my co-residents, and traveling around the whole world!

Karen Hawks, M.D.**Medical School:** University of South Carolina School of Medicine

I am originally from Rhode Island, but have spent the majority of my life in Singapore before I came back to the US for college. I went to Clemson University (GO TIGERS!) and then stayed nearby to go to University of South Carolina School of Medicine - Greenville. I am so excited to now be in Maryland pursuing pediatrics! In my free time I love to do any outdoor activities, especially hiking and running with my husband and dog. I enjoy cooking and trying new recipes, but also enjoy trying out restaurants. I have particularly enjoyed exploring Baltimore and finding fun restaurants here!

Leah Hirschman, M.D.**Medical School:** University of Maryland School of Medicine

I grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts and made my way to Maryland to pursue my undergraduate degree at Goucher College. At Goucher I majored in Biology and minored in Spanish, while also enjoying the close-knit community at Goucher and playing Ultimate Frisbee. I took two years off before coming to medical school at University of Maryland. During my time off, I traveled to Equatorial Guinea for three months to work on malaria research (and speak Spanish!) and came back to Maryland to work as an ophthalmic technician. I absolutely loved my clinical years as a medical student, and my time with the pediatrics department and working with the patients here at Maryland made my decision to pursue pediatrics an easy one. I love to cook (mostly vegan) food, bake (non-vegan desserts), play board games, hike, run, and am always up for tossing a Frisbee with friends!

Caroline Knoop, M.D.**Medical School:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and moved to Sarasota, Florida during high school to pursue the sport of figure skating at a higher level. I skated pairs, so I was thrown and lifted in to the air! I attended Dartmouth College where I was a member of the figure skating team and majored in sociology. I moved back to Florida to attend medical school at Florida Atlantic University. In medical school, I met my fiancé and we couples matched at the

University of Maryland! I love to needlepoint, watch reality tv shows, bake key lime pies and cycle. I am so excited to join the University of Maryland and explore the city of Baltimore!

Cara Lee, M.D.

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine



I was born and raised in Bethesda, Maryland. I spent 3 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for undergrad, where I studied neurobiology and enjoyed lots of cheese, football, and snow. After graduating a year early, I returned to Maryland and spent a year working in a private pediatrics practice and a local emergency department and nurtured my passions for pediatrics and acute care. I attended medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where my love for pediatrics and the people, patients, and places of Baltimore grew exponentially. So, I was thrilled to match at Maryland Pediatrics for residency! I am so excited to continue to serve, learn alongside, and support the tiny humans of Baltimore as a pediatrician! In my free time, I love practicing yoga, baking, convincing co-residents to get ice cream from BMORE LICKS, and spending time with my family and friends.

Christina Lee, D.O.

Medical School: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University



I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and then headed east to attend Haverford College in Philadelphia where I majored in Anthropology. After I graduated, I attended Johns Hopkins and got my Masters in Biotechnology. I eventually found myself in Chicago to attend medical school at Midwestern University. My family quickly realized that I am one of the few Californians that has no plans to return!

During my third year of medical school, I quickly realized how much I loved and looked forward to working with pediatric patients and all of the amazing clinical staff. I am so thrilled to be back in Maryland to work with the families, residents, and attendings in this wonderful community! Whenever I have free time, I love biking, exploring the food scene, and hanging out with my puppy, Penny.

Alix Mizoue, M.D.

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



I was born and raised in Westminster, Colorado, just outside of Denver. I attended Cornell University for undergrad, where I majored in Chemical Engineering. After undergrad, I took a gap year doing research at Children's Hospital in Colorado. I then completed medical school at St. George's University. Now, I am so excited to be in Baltimore for residency. I am passionate about working with children and thrilled at the opportunity to care for the children of Maryland. In my spare time, I love being active (hiking, running, doing yoga, and skiing), but I also love watching TV and movies. I can't wait to explore Baltimore over the next three years!

Kevin Sullivan, M.D.

Medical School: Tulane University School of Medicine



I am from Atlanta (Marietta more specifically) and went to Emory University for my undergrad. I double majored in music performance (french horn!) and biology. I graduated a semester early and worked at a coffee shop for a few months, but don't worry

I did not turn into a full coffee snob. From there I attended medical school at Tulane in New Orleans. I have a lot of family around the DMV and general Maryland area so I am very happy to be at Maryland for residency. Outside of the hospital and clinic I like being active (jogging, yoga, some actual weight/gym time if I'm feeling wild) and video games (The Sims, League of Legends, and more - I am a pediatrician after all).

Rivka Thurm, M.D.

Medical School: Albert Einstein College of Medicine



I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY--my dad still lives in the home my parents bought when my oldest brother was a baby, over 40 years ago! I stayed close to home by going to Hunter College in Manhattan for my undergrad in biochemistry, and then Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. This is my first time living outside New York City, but I'm still sticking close to family--we live right near my sister! I've wanted to be a doctor for about as long as I can remember and coming from a big family and growing up in a community full of big families set me up for working with children. Also, my inner child is perpetually about 4 years old and loves to come out and play with the other kids. On a more serious note, I'm passionate about the role of communities and social support systems in public health, and am excited to get involved in the Baltimore community and help it grow stronger and healthier. Aside from medicine, I enjoy running, hiking and backpacking, skiing, biking, swimming, or anything else outdoors. When indoors, I enjoy cooking, crocheting, and Marvel Universe shows and movies.