

## University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital

### Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Training Program 2013-2014 Residents



In the tradition of many Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics programs, the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital (UM/JMH) Med-Peds program came to fruition with the aid and persistence of a few determined residents.

In the 1980's several residents completed training in both Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital "the hard way", with three years each of categorical training. In the late 1980's two residents, Drs. Susan McLellan and Robert Flood began crafting the combined program. They completed the newly organized UM/JMH program in 1992. To date, 69 residents have completed our program. The program continues to evolve with the full support of both departments.



## WHO WE ARE

### PGY-1

**Samantha Gonzalez, MD** [sam.gonzalez@med.miami.edu](mailto:sam.gonzalez@med.miami.edu)

Sam is originally from Miami and is a proud Miami Hurricane, with majors in Psychology and Poetry from “The U”. During her time there she was an active student leader with particular interest in cultural activities and community service. A lover of the water, music, and Hispanic culture it is no wonder she made her way to the island of Puerto Rico for her medical education at Ponce School of Medicine. At Ponce, she got a bilingual education and focused on community outreach, particularly through her work with AMSA. An externship in Mombasa, Kenya in her fourth year opened her eyes to the world of global health. She feels blessed to be in the right program to enhance this interest into a career commitment during her time in Miami. She is eager to get hands on with her Med-Peds team in her home community and start giving back to population that not only has great need, but also amazing diversity. And of course, she is happy to call Miami home once again.

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**Benjamin Meza, MD** [bmeza@med.miami.edu](mailto:bmeza@med.miami.edu)

Benjamin grew up in Arlington, VA. He was an interdisciplinary major at Davidson College in North Carolina, studying the role of nongovernmental organizations in the provision of HIV care in Brazil’s Northeast. From there he completed a post-baccalaureate and master’s in Biochemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University. Without any connection to the Rust Belt, he traveled to the University of Pittsburgh for medical school where he unexpectedly found community among the Bhutanese and Burmese refugees who were also in the first stages of resettling to the City of Bridges. Hoping to see health on a larger scale, Benjamin spent a year at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA and Windhoek, Namibia learning the complexities of public health domestically and internationally. In this next episode, Benjamin and his brother have found a home in Miami, a city with one foot in the American South, the other in Latin America, and a hand dangling in the warm island waters of the Caribbean.

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**Jane Park, MD, MHS** [jjpark@med.miami.edu](mailto:jjpark@med.miami.edu)

Jane grew up in the mountains of Colorado and went to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she obtained degrees in Molecular Biology and English Literature. After college, she worked for two years as a research assistant before deciding to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She spent the next two years working on health and education projects in China. Seeing the impact she could make as a physician, she decided to go back to Colorado for medical school (where she could romp in the mountains with her nieces and nephews in between classes). Throughout medical school, Jane continued global health work, first completing an internship with UNICEF in Bihar, India. Then, between her 3rd and 4th year, she took a year to work on public health projects in Haiti. She fell in love with the Haitians, which was one of many reasons that she was drawn to the Med-Peds program in Miami. In addition, she was impressed by the diverse patients, the amazing residents, and eccentricity of Miami—all reasons she loves being here for residency!



## WHO WE ARE

PGY-1

**Brent Parris, MD, MS** [bparris@med.miami.edu](mailto:bparris@med.miami.edu)

Born to Trinidadian and Barbadian parents, Brent was raised in the Brooklyn and Queens boroughs of New York City. Branching out of New York, he attended the University of Chicago where he majored in Biology/Neuroscience and Psychology. During his time in Chicago, he was involved in research in neuronal current MRI and epileptic children, worked in information technology, and mastered the art of riding a bicycle to work during a blizzard. Returning to New York for medical school, he went to the Stony Brook University School of Medicine in Long Island. At Stony Brook, he was very active in the community at large through his work with the student run free health clinic (SBHOME) as a steering committee member and the Student National Medical Association. During medical school he also spent time in Trujillo, Peru conducting ethnobotanical research. Brent chose the Med-Peds program at UM/JMH because of the diverse patient population, the warmth of the residents, faculty, and staff, the many global opportunities available, and the lack of opportunities to shovel snow.

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**Kendra Van Kirk, MD, MAT** [kvankirk12@med.miami.edu](mailto:kvankirk12@med.miami.edu)

Kendra was born in Texas and raised in North Carolina where she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with degrees in Chemistry and German (TAAAR...HEEEELS!!!). After college, she joined Teach for America and relocated to Baltimore to teach sixth-grade science while simultaneously receiving her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Johns Hopkins University. As a teacher, Kendra witnessed the profound implication that health disparities and nutrition had on her students' educational success and thus decided to pursue a career in medicine. At Howard University College of Medicine in the District of Columbia, Kendra continued community service work as Patient Education Committee Chair at a student-run free clinic. She also strove to improve educational outcomes as the Vice President of Curriculum, earning her the Ruth E. Moore and Lloyd H. Newman Service Award. As a result of her teaching experience and medical training, Kendra developed a strong interest in the health disparities which disproportionately affect minority populations in urban communities. Kendra is thrilled to be training at UM/JMH where she plans to work in the prevention of childhood obesity in order to improve physical, psychological, and academic health in urban youth, ultimately promoting healthy lifestyles and combating complex disease processes in adulthood.

## WHO WE ARE

### PGY-2



**Andres Afanador, MD** aafanador@med.miami.edu

*MedPeds Global Health Resident*

Andres was born right here in Miami but grew up in North Carolina. He studied Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (AKA “Blue Heaven”) and went to medical school at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. He has traveled on medical missions to Peru, Bolivia, and India, and came to JMH with Hayley to learn and practice Global Health on a daily basis. He loves Med-Peds, Miami and ESPECIALLY his fellow residents.



**Hayley Afanador, MD, MPH** hafanador@med.miami.edu

*MedPeds Global Health Resident*

Hayley was born and raised in North Carolina where she attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for undergraduate, majoring in Chemistry. She decided to move further east for her medical education and attended The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Soon after arriving in eastern NC, Hayley realized her medical career was intertwined with public health on a daily basis so she decided to spend an extra year pursuing a Masters of Public Health before entering residency. She travelled to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Peru, and India working with medical and public health issues. Deciding to come to Miami for residency was an easy choice for Hayley and Andres with the excellent focus on international medicine, the diversity in the city, the patient population, the residents, and, of course, the fabulous weather.



**Brandon Allport, MD** ballport@med.miami.edu

Brandon was born to Montserratian and Dominican parents (from Dominica, not the Dominican Republic) and grew up in New Jersey, and later Texas. He attended Rice University in Houston majoring in Biological Sciences, after which he ventured across Main Street to attend Baylor College of Medicine where he developed an interest in global and public health, care of socioeconomically disadvantaged and medically underserved populations, and social dance. Brandon is excited to train in Miami (though he did keep his cowboy hat for special occasions), and experience the diverse patient and co-resident populations, unique pathology, and amazing global health opportunities ...as well as the beautiful weather, delicious food, Spanish practice, and salsa scene. He plans to pursue a career in general medicine and pediatrics, both at home and abroad. He doesn't want to choose, which is why he chose Med-Peds.

## WHO WE ARE

### PGY-2



**Victor Cueto, MD** [vcueto@med.miami.edu](mailto:vcueto@med.miami.edu)

Victor Cueto was born and raised in the blue-collar city of Hialeah. He attended the University of Miami for undergraduate studies and is a very proud Hurricane. Following college, he spent a year teaching middle school science in Miami Beach, but fate and adventure took him from South Florida to the City of Brotherly Love to attend Drexel University College of Medicine. At Drexel, Victor was active in organizing community service projects and held a number of leadership positions in the Latino Medical Student Association. For his efforts, he was honored with the AMA Minority Scholars Award, an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, and the Maurice C. Clifford, M.D. Leadership Award. Victor was drawn to the UM/JMH Med-Peds program for its excellent training while serving the needs of the underserved. Excited to have rejoined Miami's Cuban exile community and be back at "The U", he looks forward to strengthening his clinical skills and nurturing his professional interests while enjoying the immense diversity Miami has to offer.



**LoAnn Heuring, MD** [lheuring@med.miami.edu](mailto:lheuring@med.miami.edu)

Growing up, LoAnn lived in four U.S. states, Korea, and most notably Saudi Arabia, where she lived the majority of her formative childhood years. She moved back to Minnesota at the age of 15 and attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. After graduating, LoAnn moved to NYC where she worked at a community hospital in the South Bronx as an AmeriCorps volunteer. She eventually moved across the Hudson River to attend UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, where she continued to seek community service opportunities including the NYC Health Literacy Fellowship, the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, and serving as a director at the free student-run clinic. LoAnn is excited about her next adventure as a Med-Peds resident at UM/JMH where the diverse patient population and supportive faculty and residents will allow her to pursue her interests in health literacy, patient advocacy, and alleviating health disparities domestically and internationally.

## WHO WE ARE

### PGY-3



**Kemi Adeyeri, MD, MSc** oadeyeri@med.miami.edu

Chief Resident, 2014-2015

Kemi Adeyeri, was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, where she spent her early years. After completing high school, she moved to the United States to begin her college education. She attended Hood College, in Frederick, MD where she majored in Biochemistry. In between labs and classes, Kemi performed many shows with the African Dance Club at Hood and became a basketball fanatic. After graduating college, she worked at a biotechnology company as a Research Assistant. Kemi eventually moved to North Carolina, where she attended Duke University School of Medicine...GO BLUE DEVILS!!! During her time at Duke, she became very active in minority recruitment and also developed an interest in global health. Kemi was able to complete work towards a M.Sc in Global Health before graduating from Duke. Residency at JMH MedPeds has been a great experience thus far.



**Nicole Cooper, MD, MPH** ncooper@med.miami.edu

*MedPeds Global Health Resident*

The child of Liberian and American expatriate parents, Nicole Cooper was raised a third-culture kid in Accra, Ghana. After graduating from Ghana International School, she moved to St. Louis, Missouri to attend Washington University in St. Louis where she majored in Biology and minored in French. After college, she joined the International Health track at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. As her professional interests began to take shape, Nicole realized that her career would likely entail a good deal of public health as well as clinical medicine. To this end, she took leave of absence after her third year of medical school to pursue and MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. Keeping her interest in Global Health at the forefront of her criteria for residency programs she matched at the Med-Peds program at UM/JMH. With a successful match in March of 2011, Nicole was delighted to join the program and is excited to be part of the Global Health track.



**Matthew Imm, MD** mimm@med.miami.edu

Chief Resident, 2014-2015

*MedPeds Global Health Resident*

Matt grew up in Cleveland Ohio, but was lured by warmer temperatures to attend the College of William and Mary in Virginia. A Buckeye at heart, he returned home to attend The Ohio State University College of medicine. There he founded PODEMOS, an organization dedicated to serving marginalized communities in Honduras with evidence based medicine. For his service he was honored with the GHEC-Lancet and the AMA Excellence in Medicine awards. He was drawn to MedPeds (and to Miami) by its amazing diversity and its opportunities to practice Global Health.

## WHO WE ARE

PGY-3



**Abiona Redwood, MD** [aredwood@med.miami.edu](mailto:aredwood@med.miami.edu)

Abiona was born in Brooklyn, New York to Jamaican parents and spent her childhood in Jamaica with a brief 4 year stint in Scotland. She attended the United World College in New Mexico from age 16 to 18 and college at Johns Hopkins University where she majored in Chemistry and Psychology. Her migration south started when she went to Duke University for Medical school. There she became a Doris Duke Scholar and went to Botswana to perform research in HIV and TB. It was there that she decided she wanted to do Med-Peds as it entwined with her desire to be involved in a Global Health Career. She was drawn to Miami/Jackson because of its diverse patient population and global health opportunities that existed in this healthcare setting as well as those in the Caribbean and Latin America.



**Lena Wong, MD** [lwong2@med.miami.edu](mailto:lwong2@med.miami.edu)

Lena was born and raised in the wonderland that is New Jersey. She attended Rutgers University as an undergrad where following a few trips overseas to South Africa and China, decided to go to medical school with an interest in international health. She moved to Philadelphia to attend medical school at Temple University, mostly to watch her beloved Flyers play. During that time, she was able to do medical work in Bolivia, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama, which has just solidified her goals in life. She decided on doing Med Peds, given its broad knowledge in both fields and feeling it would provide the best training and preparation in places where there are few doctors. Initially, she completed intern year at Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania, but was given the opportunity to come to Miami to complete residency. With the diversity in the patient population, ability to work with the underserved and a great exposure to tropical medicine, she travelled south for the first time in her life and is looking forward to spending the next few years in Miami.

## WHO WE ARE

PGY-4



**Juliana Barahona-Sparks, MD** lbarahona@med.miami.edu

Luz “Juliana” Barahona-Sparks was born and raised in Colombia. She moved to the Sunshine state in 2001 attending Florida Atlantic University where she obtained a B.S. in Biology and minor in Spanish and Latin-American Literature. She attended Medical School at Universidad Central del Caribe. During medical school she had the opportunity to work in clinical research in Leukemia and BMT, which awakened her desire to pursue a career focusing on the long term care of patients with hematological malignancies and post-BMT. Her areas of interest are transitional care for chronically ill children and young adults, and patient advocacy. In the future she would like to pursue Hematology-Oncology fellowship, and work in medically underserved Hispanic communities.



**Grey Faulkenberry, MD** jfaulkenberry@med.miami.edu

Chief Resident, 2013-2014

*MedPeds Global Health Resident*

Grey was born and raised in Virginia. He attended the College of William and Mary, majoring in physics, but decided that working with people was better than sitting in a lab, and ended up at Eastern Virginia Medical School. During medical school, he began to pursue opportunities in Global Health, and after graduation in 2009 worked for a year with Global Brigades in Honduras. He would like to make a career of establishing sustainable healthcare systems in developing countries. Until then the diversity of Miami is enough to keep him occupied.



**Ketzela Marsh, MD** kmarsh@med.miami.edu

Ketzela Jacobowitz Marsh was raised in a small town in Connecticut. She studied Biology and Linguistics at Brandeis University, remaining in Boston after graduation to work in clinical research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. She obtained a M.S. in Physiology with a concentration in Complementary and Alternative Medicine at Georgetown University. After, she did research at the NIH and ran a Cancer Program at The Center for Mind-Body Medicine, a D.C. non-profit. Her travel bug pulled her to Spain as an Au Pair, Israel to explore her roots before heading back to the U.S. and Eastern Virginia Medical School. At EVMS, Ketzela was involved in many global health activities, including medical missions to Honduras, research in Ecuador, and a project on malnutrition in Eritrea. Ketzela is interested in a career in tropical medicine/infectious disease, and hopes to pursue opportunities in both public and global health.



**Michael O'Neill, MD** moneill@med.miami.edu

Mike is the child of a Syrian mother and an Ecuadorian father. He grew up in the suburbs of Detroit and attended the University of Michigan for his undergraduate studies. During his time at Michigan, he played in a hard rock band, was a football fanatic, and obtained a degree in Biology. Following college, he moved to San Diego, CA where he worked on a naval base doing biological research for the military for a year. He returned to Michigan for medical school at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. When interviewing for residency, Mike decided Miami would be the perfect place to train for a specialty in Med-Peds because of the combination of an underserved population, multicultural diversity, awesome residents, and warm weather. His career interests include working with underserved populations, public health, and working abroad.

**Internal Medicine–Pediatrics Residency Program**