

2024  
ISSUE

ANNUAL  
NEWSLETTER FOR  
POTENTIAL  
MENTORS

# R25 MGH Next-Gen Physician-Scientist Training Program (PSTP)

## Current Residents

### GHIDA EL BANNA, MD

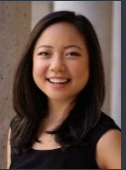
Ghida joined the R25 program in July 2024 following her intern year



in internal medicine. Under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Chen, she will focus on the outcomes of early dermatology consultation for inpatients with wounds due to inflammatory skin conditions.

### SELENA LI, MD

Selena joined the R25 program in July 2023 following her PGY3 year



in the Department of Surgery. Under the mentorship of Dr. Seyed Alireza Rabi, she will continue to focus on the biochemical profiling of blood from machine-perfused donor hearts and lungs for her second year of support.

### ALEXANDER ZHU, MD

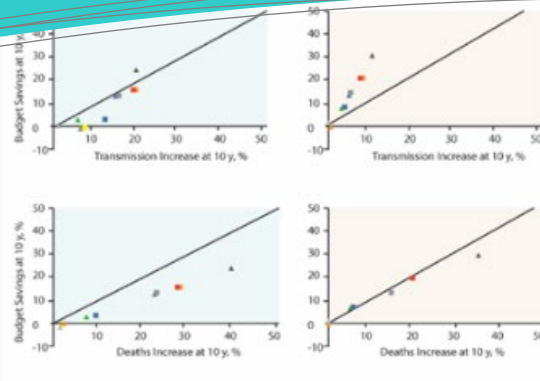
Alex joined the R25 program in July 2024 following his PGY3 year



in the Department of Surgery at UCSD. Under the mentorship of Dr. Chi-Fu Jeffert Yang, he will focus on utilizing machine learning algorithms and -omics data for detection of postoperative outcomes after cardiothoracic surgery.

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Overview of Program

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## Revitalizing the Physician-Scientist Pipeline

Our fourth year was extremely successful, with residents focusing on the improvement of equity in access to liver and kidney transplantation, lung allograft tolerance, and proteomic evaluation of *ex vivo* perfused hearts. Our resident scholars and alumni presented their work worldwide, including Prague, China, Philadelphia, Washington DC, California, and Colorado. The MGH Next-Gen PSTP has selected three highly motivated residents from the Department of Surgery and Medicine to support during the current 2024-2025 research year, which started in July. *There will be no call for applications for the upcoming academic year.*

### MEET OUR LEADERSHIP!

Program Director: Jay Vyas, MD, PhD

Internal Steering Committee

- Ruanne Barnabas, MBChB, DPhil
- Amy Barczak, MD
- Marcia Goldberg, MD
- Joren Madsen, MD, DPhil

Program Manager: Becca Ward, PhD

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The primary goal of the program is to train residents to be physician-scientists who can advance medical science in a broad range of areas from basic science to clinical investigations. Surgical and medical residents apply for the R25 program in December and are selected by January. Participants receive salary support (in agreement with the MGB PGY payscale) and \$10,000 for coursework, professional development opportunities, travel, and other costs.

*Before Starting:*

- Creation of an Individual Development Plan

*During Program:*

- 90% effort toward research
- Monthly programmatic curriculum
- RCR training
- Weekly meetings with mentors
- Routine meetings with leadership
- Prepare publications
- Presentations at conferences

*After Program:*

- Prepare publications
- Presentations at conferences
- Annual Survey

## Alumni Residents

### TAYLOR COE, MD (2020-2021)

Dr. Coe is an abdominal transplant and hepato-pancreatobiliary surgery fellow (University of Toronto)

### DAVID CRON, MD, MS (2023-2024)

Dr Cron is a PGY4 clinical surgery fellow (MGH)

### CLAIRE DE CRESCENZO, MD (2021-2022)

Dr. de Crescenzo is currently finishing her last year as a surgical resident (MGH)

### ADAEZE EZEFOR, MD (2022-2023)

Dr. Ezeofor is a dermatology resident (Hofstra University)

### GREGORY FRICKER, MD (2022-2023)

Dr. Fricker is a first-year gastroenterology fellow (MGH)

### SAMANTHA LANDINO, MD (2022-2024)

Dr. Landino is a PGY4 clinical surgery fellow (MGH)

### DAVID LEE, MD, MPH, MSc (2021-2022)

Dr. Lee is a first-year oncology fellow (DFCI/BWH/MGH)

### CYNTHIA MILLER, MD (2020-2022)

Dr. Miller is a cardiothoracic surgical resident on the cardiac track (MGH)

### RACHEL WOLFSON, MD, PHD (2020-2021)

Dr. Wolfson is a fellow in the MGH gastroenterology fellowship program.



Dr. David Cron (2023-2024) presenting at the Controversies in Transplantation 2024 meeting in Vail, CO, February 2024 (*left*). Dr. Selena Li at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation in Prague with a banner of her from the 2023 ISHLT meeting (*right*).



## TRAINEE SUCCESSES

Our resident scholars are well accomplished. Successes include:

- 22 primary articles (22 pending)
- 8 review articles
- 46 oral presentations
- 32 poster presentations
- American Journal of Transplantation Outstanding Article Award (*D. Cron*)
- Thoracic Surgery Foundation Research Fellowship (*S. Landino*)
- Nina Starr Braunwald Resident Research Award, Thoracic Surgery Foundation (*S. Li*)
- Selected conferences attended in 2023-2024: 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Surgical Congress, American Transplant Congress, International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation Meeting, Western Thoracic Surgical Association 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

## HIGHLIGHTS: FROM 2023-2024

Feedback from exit interviews:

- Resident scholars all voiced their satisfaction with the program structure and flexibility.
- They enjoyed being able to experience a broad breadth of science from basic to clinical outcome investigations.
- Feedback from last year led to new speakers for the monthly curriculum, particularly from the Surgery Department.

The monthly curriculum was well received by session leaders, including Drs. Joren Madsen and Karin Andersson (*Mentoring*), Rod Rahimi and Danielle Cameron (*Advocating and Negotiating for Your Career*), Karen Miller and Heidi Yeh (*Conducting Research as an MD*) and Rebecca Ward (*Scientific Communications*).

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS: FROM 2023-2024

Mazur RD, Cron DC, ..., Dageforde LAD. Impact of median MELD at transplant minus 3 national policy on quality of transplanted livers for patients with and without hepato-cellular carcinoma. *Transplantation*. 2024;108(1):204-214.

PMID: [37189232](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37189232/).

Li SS, ..., Rabi SA. Transcontinental heart transplant using SherpaPak cold static storage system. *J Heart Lung Transplant Open*. 2024 Jan; 4: 100062. [10.1016/j.jhlto.2024.100062](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhlto.2024.100062).

Bassir F, ..., Ezeofor AJ, ..., Blumenthal KG. Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS): clinical presentation and outcomes in people of color. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract*. 2023; 11(11):3537-3540. PMID: [37572756](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37572756/).

Fricker GP, ..., Chung RT. Tools Needed to Support Same-Day Diagnosis and Treatment of Current Hepatitis C Virus Infection. *J Infect Dis*. 2024 May 8;229(Supplement\_3):S362-S369. PMID: [37739799](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37739799/).