



2020 Internal Medicine Residency Graduation

Congrats to all graduating seniors! Its been great working with many talented internal medicine residents on the renal consult service this year. Best wishes to everyone.

- Maria Story

Nick Arnold, MD

Hometown: New London, Missouri

Medical School: University of Missouri-Columbia

Next step:
Chief at UIHC, then Cardiology/Critical Care
fellowships



Nick Arnold



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Greco's Christmas/Holiday parties, I cannot elaborate further
- **Residency mentor:** Phil Horwitz MD
- **Fun fact:** I enjoy woodworking and a fine whisky



Thorarinn Bjarnason, MD, PhD

Hometown: Reykjavik, Iceland

Medical school: University of Iceland

Next step:
Cardiology fellowship at UIHC



Thorarinn Bjarnason



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Making a contract with a patient on the Hem/Onc team stating that we would return his medical marijuana before discharge. It needed to be locked in a box in the medication room because it is a controlled substance.
- **Residency mentor:** Research mentor Saket Girotra. Aspire to be more like Andrei Schwartz but without the funny accent 😊.
- **Fun fact:** I once left a hospital against medical advice.



Congratulations! I'm sure
you will make us proud!

- Helena Laroche

Jason Cascio, MD, PhD

Hometown: Oak Lawn, IL

Medical school: Loyola University Chicago

Next step:

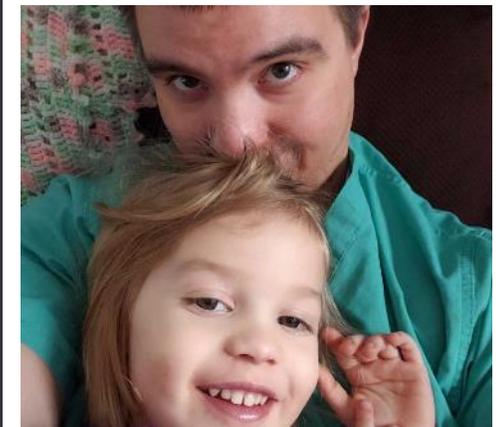
Allergy/Immunology fellowship at UIHC



Jason Cascio



- **Favorite memory from residency:** the time a clinic patient tried to convince me that her "Quantum Neurologist" diagnosed her with Lyme by hooking her wrists up to electrodes and analyzing her vibrations.
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Zuhair Ballas and Dr. Ben Davis
- **Fun facts:**
 - my family once feared I'd be a serial killer because of my love of horror movies
 - my wife cuts my hair, so I was immune to the COVID shag
 - once chugged an entire bottle of hot sauce on camera



Mohsan Chaudhry, MD

Hometown: Glen Burnie, Maryland

Medical school: Virginia Tech

Next step:
Cardiology Fellowship at University of Minnesota



Mohsan Chaudhry



- **Favorite memory from residency:** 1) Having two amazing kids with my wonderful wife 2) Playing Boardgames with some wonderful people
- **Residency mentor:** Matt Smith
- **Fun fact:** yes, I've always been loud



Devashree Dave, MD

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois

Medical school: University of Illinois

Next step:

GI/Hepatology at Indiana University, To be
the next Dr. Silverman (Jk😊)

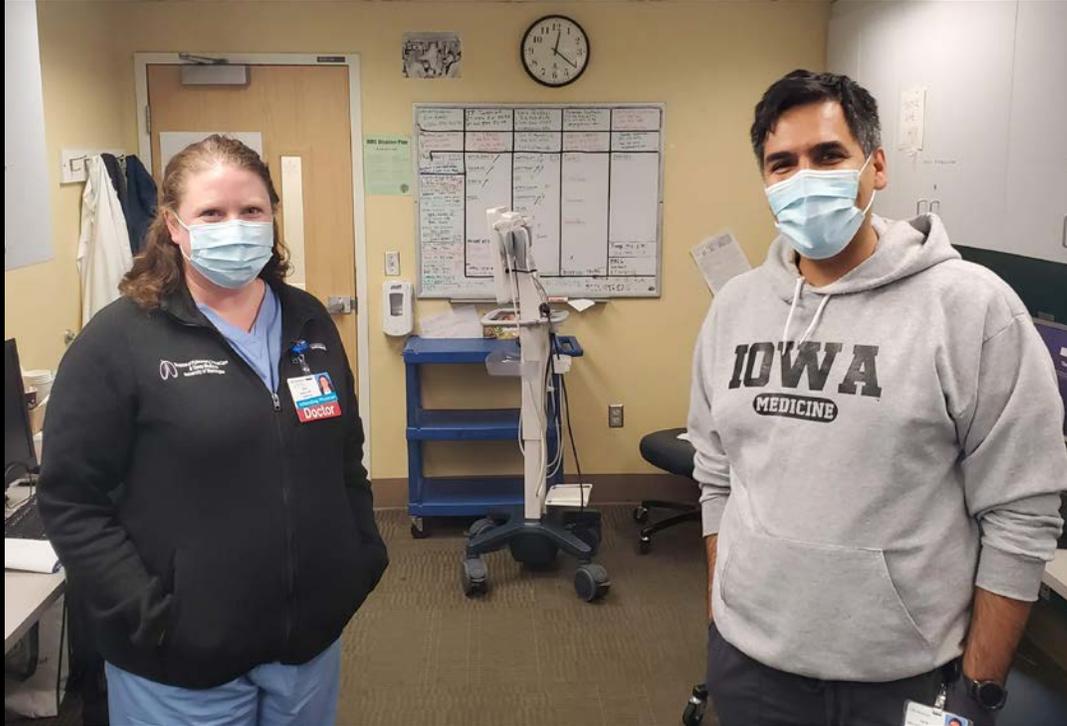


Devashree Dave



- **Favorite memory from residency:** It was the time my father was in ICU and I was a senior on Med Psych. I remember being stopped by my female coresidents, who had formed a circle outside the bean conference room. They gave me a warm group hug and offered to cover the rest of my shifts so I could go visit my dad. I truly felt cared for and I've had many many moments like these at this program, which have truly made me feel at home.
- **Residency mentor:** I've had many mentors throughout residency, and the ones I would really like to credit include Dr. Arvind Murali, Dr. Justin Smock and Dr. Manish Suneja.
- **Fun fact:** 6RC nights has created amazing memories for me each year. As an intern, I applied for a rescue puppy during 6 RC nights which led to us getting our dog Cinnamon. As a second year, when I went home from Star call in December 2018, my then-boyfriend proposed to me. And as a third year senior on 6RC nights, it was my last rotation as a bachelorette, before I got married in March 2020. Call room is where all the dance practice happened. 😊





Best of luck to all the 2020 graduates of the UIHC Internal Medicine Residency Program.

We are looking forward to seeing great things from all of you in the future. You have trained at one of the best programs out there and can handle anything that comes your way. Go Hawkeyes!

- Farid Moussavi-Harami and Erin Kross

Austin Greco, MD

Hometown: Boone, Iowa

Medical school: University of Iowa

Next step:

Hematology/Oncology at Iowa; hopes to continue to serve the great state of Iowa.



Austin Greco

- **Favorite memory from residency:**
None that I can say in public
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Zakharia
- **Fun fact:** My hairline has moved back a few centimeters since starting residency



Aziz Hammoud, MD

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Medical school: University of Texas
Southwestern

Next step:
Cardiology at Wake Forest



Amanda Heuszel, MD

Hometown: Salina, Kansas

Medical school: University of Kansas

Next step:
Chief Resident at UIHC then Cardiology fellowship



Amanda Heuszel



- **Favorite memory from residency:**
 - The time I lit my coat on fire at our residency tailgate...there was a trail of feathers following me all day.
 - All the times on VA white team (5x). Especially the time I was with my two best friends, Nicole and Alexis, during my intern year (as pictured)
- **Residency mentor:** Drs. Paul Lindower, Laurel Lyckholm, Nicole Grogan
- **Fun facts:** I had braces three times



I am so proud of you seniors. It has been a true pleasure to know you. I know you will be bright stars and I cannot wait to hear of your accomplishments for years to come.
Stay in touch please

- Nicole Nisly

Jiirho Honkanen, MD

Hometown: Tucson, Arizona

Medical school: University of Arizona

Next step:
Nephrology fellowship at UIHC



Iiro Honkanen



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Sending a fake page to Kath pretending to be Salman telling her she had been called in for jeopardy in CVICU
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Smock and Dr. Jalal
- **Fun fact:** I caught the biggest fish ever at the Coralville dam and I have a picture to prove it



Alissa Kauffman, MD

Hometown: Florence, Montana

Medical school: University of Iowa

Next step:
Cardiology fellowship at Ohio State



Alissa Kauffman



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Beth Batchelor getting an NG placed in MICU.
- **Residency mentor:** Too many to list - it took the whole village to help me figure out my life and I'm very grateful to all
- **Fun fact:** I have all my teeth, including my wisdom teeth



Behnam Laderian, MD

Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska

Medical school: University of Nebraska

Next step:
GI fellowship at Tulane



Behnam Laderian



- **Favorite memory from residency:** all the times that hung out with co-residents outside of work playing board games, carving pumpkins, Christmas parties at Austin's, etc.



I presented a paper at the Central Society in Chicago, 1974. My senior investigator, Allan Cooke, MD told me to remember that I was representing University of Iowa Medicine. Keep this in mind as you go out into the world, as you have had unique training.

- John R. Stephens

Ray Lu, MD

Hometown: Xian, China

Medical school: Indiana University

Next step:
GI fellowship at Ohio State



Ray Lu



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Becoming a dad
- **Residency mentor:** Multiple
- **Fun fact:** I grew up in Iowa City and never thought I'd be back, but now my son has spent his first few years here!



Matt McGee, MD

Hometown: Minot, North Dakota

Medical school: University of North Dakota

Next step:
Hematology/Oncology fellowship at La
Crosse Wisconsin



Matt McGee



- **Favorite memory from residency:** All the rounds of golf and all the times we went to play craps at the casino
- **Residency mentor:** Josiah An
- **Fun fact:** Thanks to my stimulus check, I am the proud owner of a new set of Ping golf clubs!



Lakshmi Nagarajan, MD

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

Medical school: University of Texas HSC
Houston

Next step:
Cardiology fellowship at UIHC



Lakshmi Nagarajan



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Talking about our patronus. Didn't realize being a penguin was an option!
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Michael Muellerleile
- **Fun fact:** Visited over 15 different countries in the last 5 years





To all the graduating residents, you've worked so hard to achieve this milestone in your life and it's been an absolute pleasure working with you. "Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful"
Dr. Albert Schweitzer

- Asad Ali

Don Nguyen, MD

Hometown: San Jose, California

Medical school: University of Pittsburgh



Lena Sabih, MD

Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas

Medical school: Florida International University

Next step:
Rheumatology fellowship at Saint Louis University



Lena Sabih



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Fancy lunch and Java House afternoon coffees with my co residents! Also intern year when some of us were trying (struggling) to see the solar eclipse on a cloudy day from the Children's Hospital rooftop garden.



Kevin Sanchez, MD

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

Medical school: University of Nevada

Next step:

Hospitalist at UIHC, maybe

Hematology/Oncology fellowship in future



Kevin Sanchez



- **Favorite memory from residency:** tailgate, Christmas parties
- **Fun fact:** I'll never have to do a MICU call again in my entire life



Congratulations!

- Spiros Fortis

Matt Smith, MD

Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Medical school: University of Nebraska

Next step:

Infectious Disease fellowship at UIHC, then
working in epidemiology and public health



Matt Smith



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Wednesday night basketball
- **Residency mentor:** Drs. Ilonka Molano, Bill Nauseef, Christine Cho, Dan Diekema, Dan Livorsi, Judy Streit. I am grateful for all of their help!
- **Fun fact:** I once made Dr. Johlin so mad that he had a paroxysm of shaking and then left the room

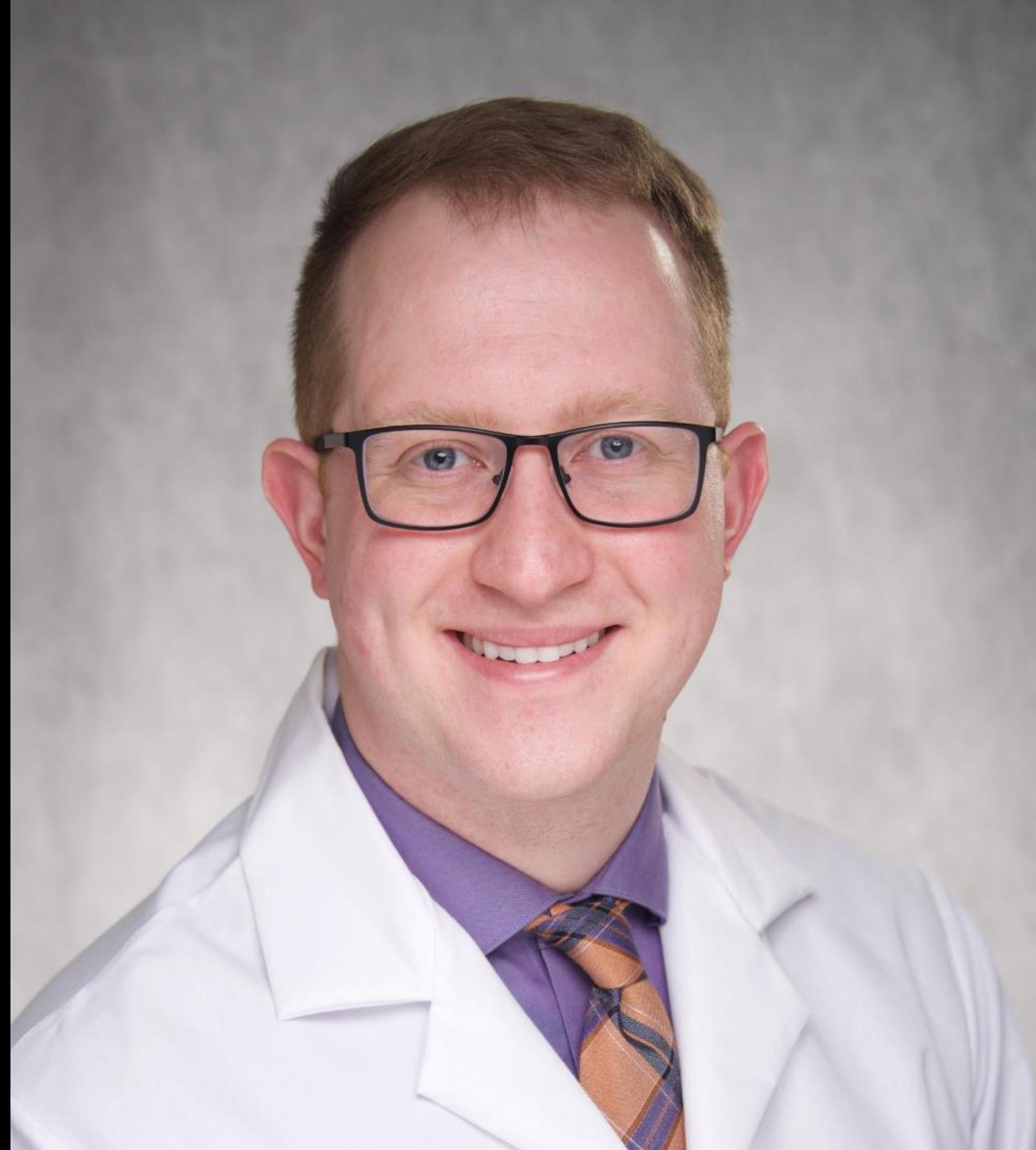


Matt Soltys, MD

Hometown: Springfield, Illinois

Medical school: Southern Illinois University

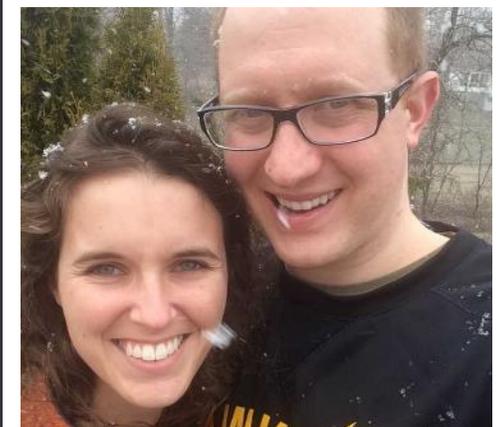
Next step:
Chief Resident at UIHC then Academic
Hospitalist



Matt Soltys



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Traveling with Karissa.
- **Residency mentor:** Krista Johnson
- **Fun fact:** I rode my bike from NYC to San-Fran.



Roger Struble, MD

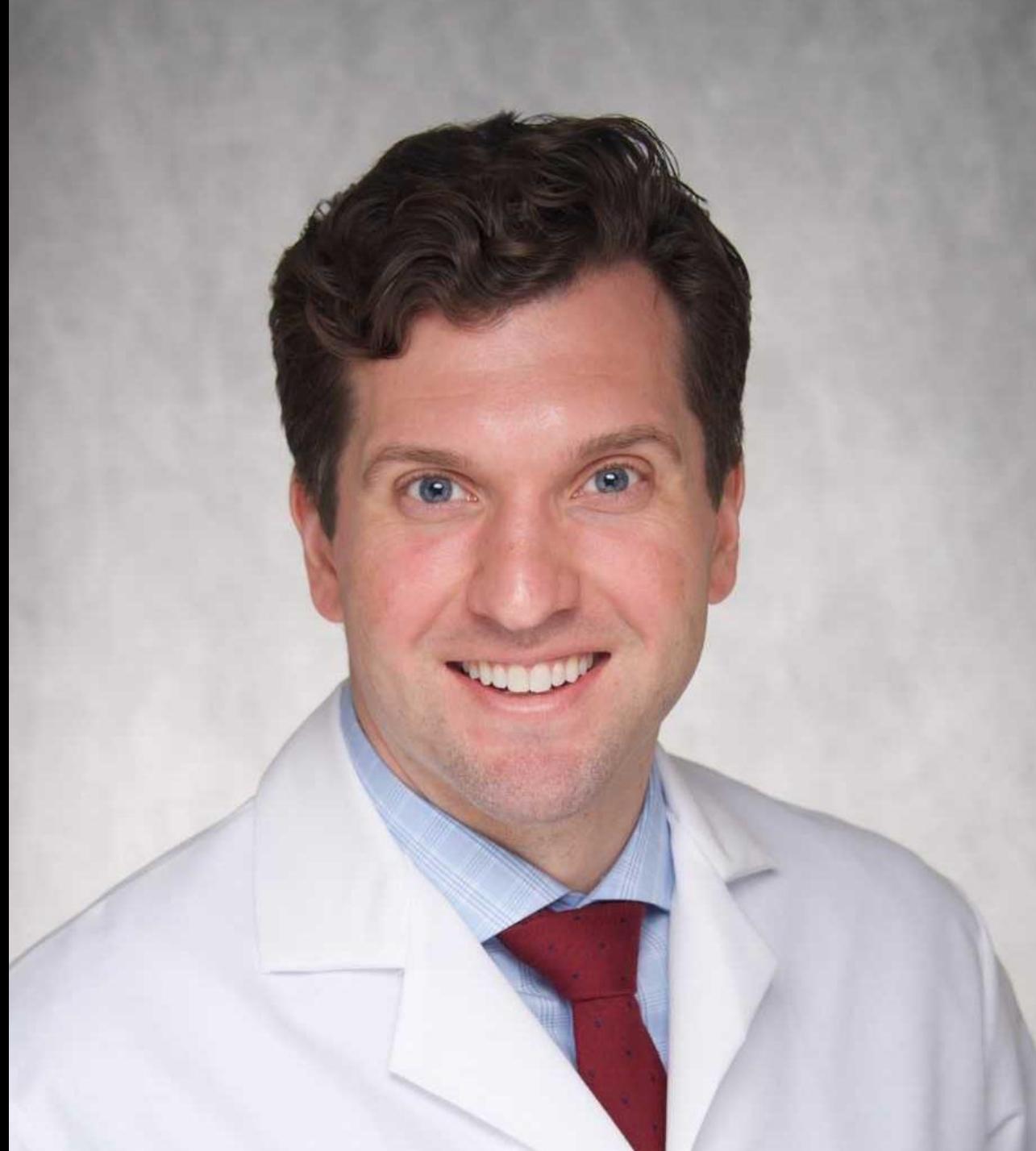
Hometown: Salina, Kansas

Medical school: University of Kansas

Next step:

Chief Resident at UIHC then

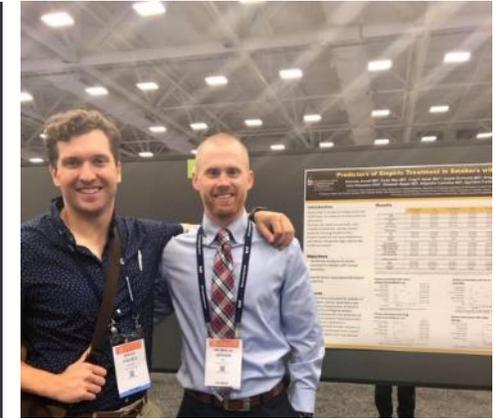
Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship



Roger Struble



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Captaining the championship side in the F division in the Iowa City Kickers Adult Soccer league!!! With IM legends: Iiro, Benham, Charles, Zach, Thor, Mike, Nick, Amjad, Jason, Matt, Stijn, Kendra, Giselle, Youness, Asad
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Stoltz, Dr. Kline, Dr. Doerschug, Dr. Rappaport
- **Fun fact:** I once cooked John Legend chicken and broccoli. I feel that I am somehow a better singer now because of osmosis.



Dear Graduating Class of 2020, Thank you for your hard work and leadership during very difficult times. It was comforting to know that you were there to care for our patients, your interns, and for each other. You are inspiring and we all learned a great deal from you. Now you are off to new adventures and the patients you care for and colleagues you work with are lucky to have you. You will be missed!

- Krista Johnson

Luis Vargas Buonfiglio, MD

Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela

Medical school: Universidad Central de Venezuela

Next step:
Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship at UIHC



Luis Vargas Buonfiglio



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Nicole Grogan and I crafted a chain made out of paper and put it in the hem-onc room. Every day we were supposed to break a link during the last week until the rotation ended. We secretly celebrated every day though... I believe the chain is still in the room.
- **Residency mentor:** Drs. Comellas and Zabner
- **Fun fact:** While living in the Venezuelan jungle for four months I ate a palm worm soup, meat from biggest rodent on earth, the capibara, and celebrated with sweet potato and cassava root beer.



Nick Williford, MD

Hometown: Oelwein, IA

Medical school: University of Iowa

Next step:

Cardiology fellowship at Washington University, interventional/structural/critical care cardiology



Nick Williford



- **Favorite memory from residency:** The existence of Kevin Sanchez, ordering steak on MICU call, Amanda hosting a Super Bowl party at my place, tailgates, Christmas parties at Greco's, Halloween parties at Arnold's
- **Residency mentor:** Kevin Sanchez, David Olafsson, Barry London, Brian Olshansky, Milena Gebaska
- **Fun fact:** Prior to going to medical school I was asked to decline acceptance and join the second biggest sweet corn farmer in the state of Iowa as his partner....let's just say he's now the FIRST biggest state corn farmer in the state of Iowa...



Dana Zhao, MD

Hometown: Qingdao, China

Medical school: University of Texas
Southwestern

Next step:
GI fellowship at SUNY Downstate



Dana Zhao



- **Favorite memory from residency:** All the get-togethers in our class
- **Residency mentor:** Sanchez (GI)
- **Fun fact:** The longest 'nap' I ever took was 17 hours



Congratulations to the entire class of 2020!!

Hard to believe that you are wrapping up training as it seems like yesterday when we all welcomed you as interns to Iowa. I am delighted to have witnessed the tremendous growth in you all over the last 3 years. Good luck to each of you in your future endeavors.

- Josiah Z

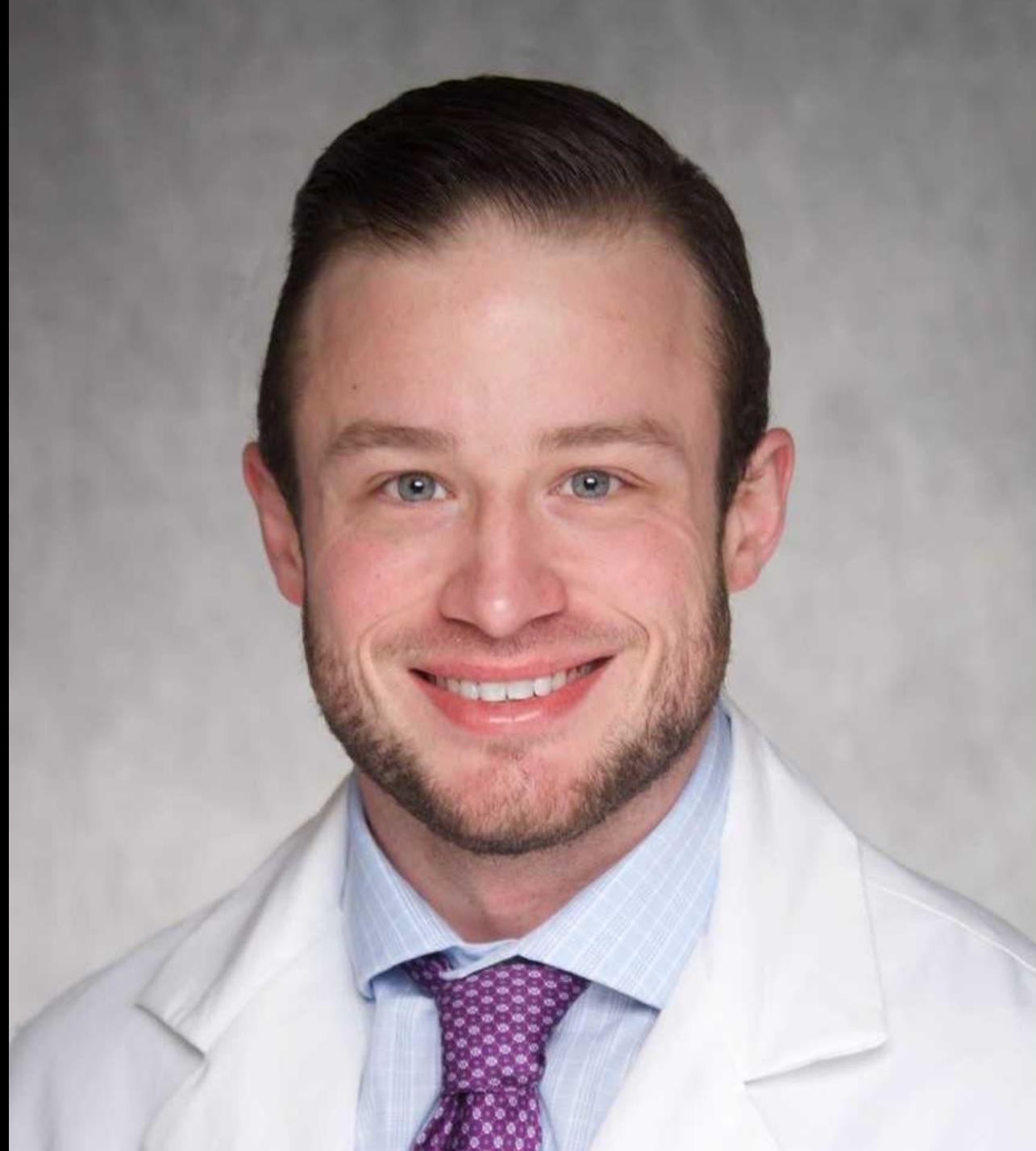
Medicine-Psychiatry

Allister Wilton, MD

Hometown: Kingstree, South Carolina

Medical school: Medical University of South Carolina

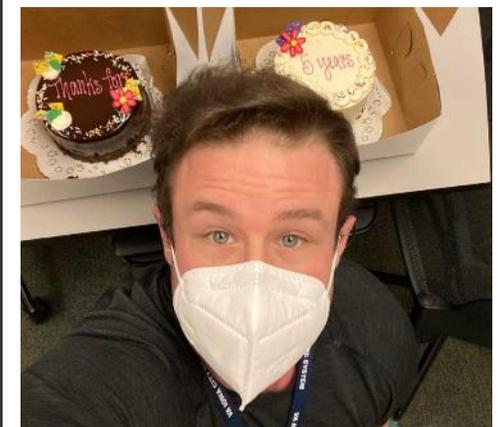
Next step: interface between addiction and pain medicine with focus on oncologist populations and immigrant health



Allister Wilton



- **Favorite memory from residency:** when my senior told me not to worry on my first night in July, and how the worst thing I could do was to drop the code pager in the toilet. It went off and buzzed right into the toilet five minutes later
- **Residency mentor:** Dr Kijewski, Dr Smock, and Dr Iverson



Congratulations grads!
You are all rockstars!

- Brittany Bettendorf

Preliminary Medicine Year

Matt Field, MD, PhD

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Medical school: University of Miami

Next step:
Ophthalmology Residency at University of Iowa



Matt Field



- **Favorite memory from residency:** COVID-19 wellness challenge at the VA
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Yamada
- **Fun fact:** My puppy River was named after River from the show Firefly



Zach Mortensen, MD, MBA

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah

Medical school: Texas Tech University

Next step:

Ophthalmology Residency at University of Iowa (undecided on subspecialty)



Zach Mortensen



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Joining all the residents (the cool ones at least 😊) at the VA Hospital to participate in running up 8 flights of stairs as fast as possible to stay fit and happy during COVID-19! Still waiting on Drs. Smock and Suneja to report their times...
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Mayy Chahla: for her emphatic compassion and relentless optimism!
- **Fun fact:** I am a twin. My twin is also in medicine. He's also doing a transition year. And he is also going into ophthalmology next year. But at University of North Carolina. (No, there or no other ophthalmologists or physicians in our family)





Residency is hard but you will look back and recognize that it is the most educational and best part of your life! Treat every patient as if there is something to be learned and you will do fine. I always used to say to interns, “you just have to give a sh*t—you don’t have to be smart to do this well.”

- Nicole Worden

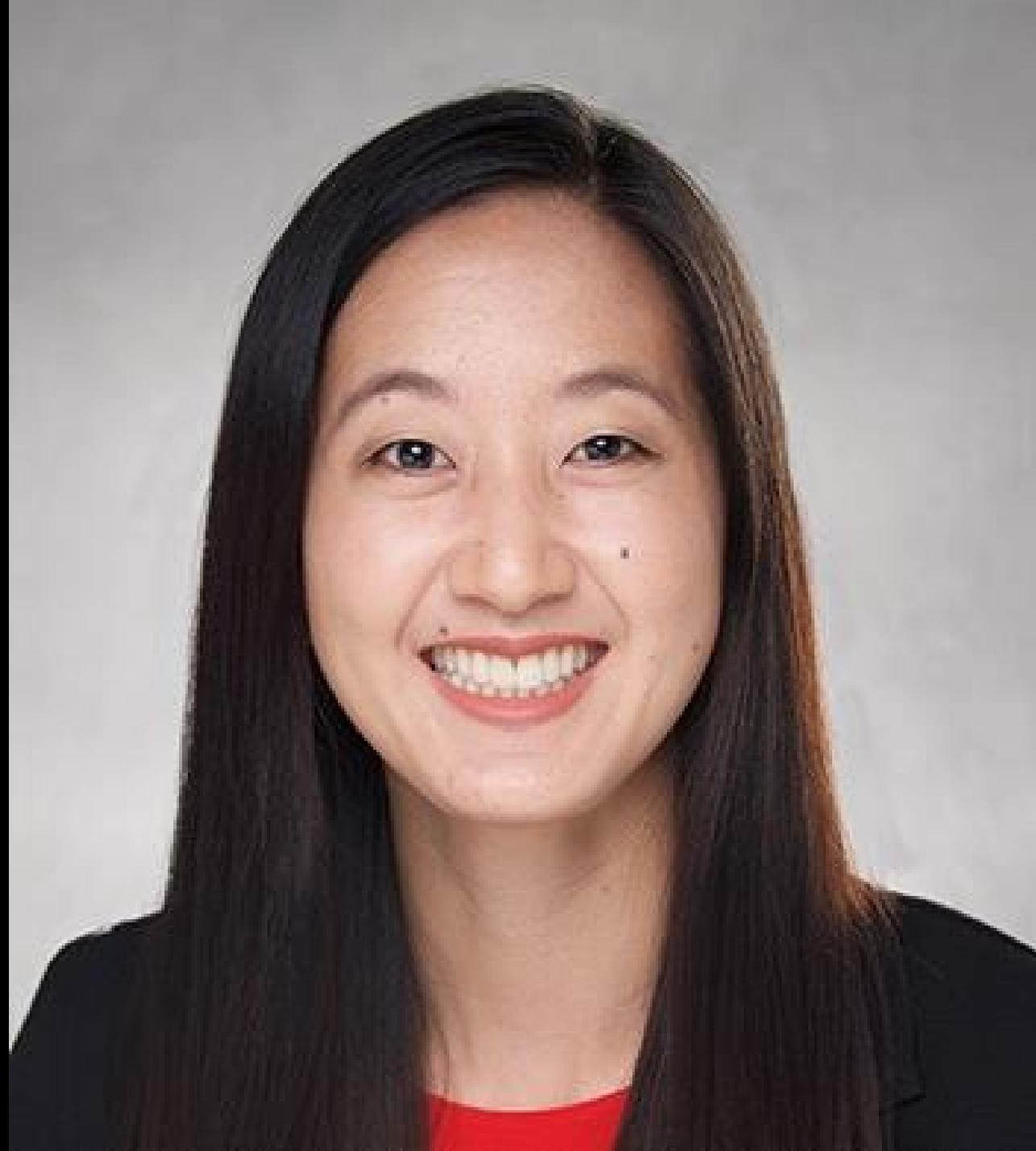
Evelyn Qin, MD, MPH

Hometown: Ames, Iowa

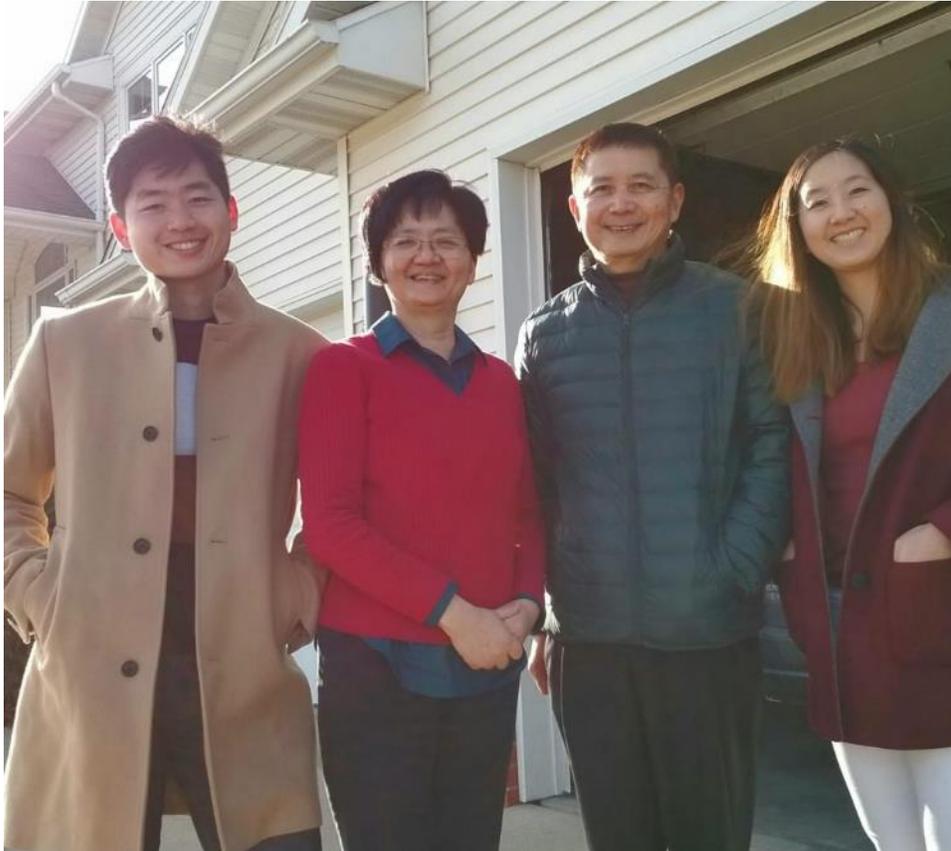
Medical school: University of Iowa

Next step:

To be a physiatrist (physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor). PM&R residency at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington.



Evelyn Qin



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Matt Field and I playing doubles against Roger Struble and Dr. Sanchez Sanchez.
- **Residency mentor:** ALL the faculty and chiefs who have played a key role in making sure the residency program and hospital runs smoothly during the COVID pandemic. I felt and still feel safe and very well informed during this year.
- **Fun fact:** Used to be a gymnast and competed and beat Shawn Johnson before she became an Olympian.



Tirth Shah, MD

Hometown: Scottsdale, Arizona

Medical school: University of Arizona - Phoenix

Next step:

Ophthalmology Residency at University of Iowa



Tirth Shah

- **Favorite memory from residency:** Listening to Lizzo during night float with Amanda and having a team dinner/drinks with Dr. Smock.
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Suneja - He is not only brilliant but also has an incredibly warm spirit I admire greatly.
- **Fun fact:** I've never lost in a game of monopoly.



Maggie Strampe, MD

Hometown: Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Medical school: University of Minnesota

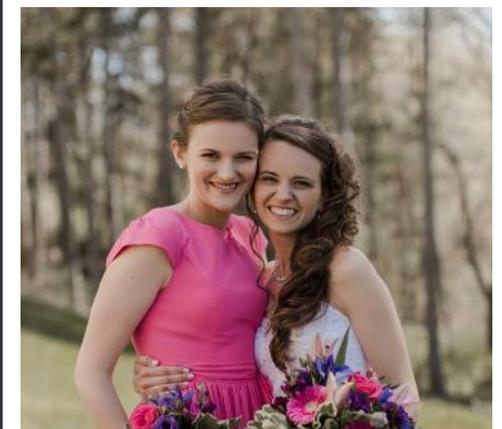
Next step:
Ophthalmology Residency at University of
Iowa



Maggie Strampe



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Every time Dr. Suneja and the chiefs came by for conversation and snacks :)
- **Residency mentor:** Yana was my first senior on 6RC in July, and she was an excellent role model and set me up well for the rest of intern year!
- **Fun fact:** I have been to Harry Potter World twice (as an adult).



I just wanted to say congratulations. It has been a pleasure watching you grow from a frightened intern to a confident physician. I am proud of you and know that you are ready to be a great asset to medicine wherever your journey takes you.

- Dr. Iverson

Madeliene Stump, MD, PhD

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Medical school: University of Iowa

Next step:
Dermatology Residency at University of Iowa





Madeliene
Stump

Kendra Tan, MD

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Medical school: Texas Tech University

Next step:
Dermatology Residency at University of Iowa



Kendra Tan



- **Favorite memory from residency:** "Feats of Strength" challenges at the VA!
- **Residency mentor:** Dr. Harris for her compassionate care and patient teaching
- **Fun fact:** I have walked over 500 miles backward as a campus tour guide



Caroline Yu, MD

Hometown: San Diego, California

Medical school: Stanford University

Next step:
Ophthalmology Residency at University of Iowa



Caroline Yu



- **Favorite memory from residency:** Board game nights with new friends!
- **Residency mentor:** Dr.Suneja for his leadership and strength through an emotionally challenging year for us all
- **Fun fact:** I have a bifid uvula - and didn't figure out until med school that was abnormal



Congratulations on a job well done and a future that is as bright as you would like. The life of a physician is very special and the ability to help and guide people through this maze we call medicine is very satisfying and rewarding. Please look to the future and the awesome degree you have just earned and stand up tall and smile.

- Melvin L. Glazer



Resident Life





WE LOVE WORK!.... Well maybe



Afterhours





Congratulations to all the graduating Internal Medicine Residents! You guys really went out with a bang! :) You forever can say that you finished your IM training during a pandemic. I was always extremely humbled to work with every last one of you and there was never a day that I didn't learned something. Many (most) of you are going on to more training, which I have no doubt you will thrive and continue to contribute to the lives of patients and the world of medicine. Take care and if any of you end up in Fargo, look me up!

- Sammantha Kouba









I wanted to say thank you to everyone in the graduating PGY-3 class! You were the ones who had my back in the ICU as a newly-minted PCCM fellow, and introduced me to Iowa City. It was an absolute privilege and a ton of fun to work and learn alongside you. Good luck on the next steps in your journey - the places you are going are fortunate to have you!

- Max Puliaiev



Congrats IM Class of 2020!