

## Academic Year 2023 – 2024

### First Year Fellows

#### Arielle Abovich



I grew up in South Florida prior to moving to Philadelphia for undergrad at the University of Pennsylvania. I then worked in clinical research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute before attending medical school at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. During medical school, I spent a year at Harvard earning my MPH in Health Management to learn more about the intersection of healthcare systems and public health. I then completed my internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where I further developed my clinical and research interests in cardiology. I am excited to be back in Boston for my cardiology fellowship, where I plan to focus my research efforts on cardio-oncology and cardiovascular public health. My hobbies include swimming, spin classes, and cooking, and I am looking forward to exploring the Boston food scene!

#### Niko Adamstein



I graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, where I majored in chemistry and philosophy, and Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, where I first became interested in cardiovascular medicine. I completed my internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where I confirmed my passion for cardiovascular medicine on the inpatient cardiology and CCU services. During this time, I have also conducted research at the Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in the Division of Preventive Medicine. My current research focuses on inflammatory biomarkers as predictors of residual inflammatory risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. I have also investigated how inflammatory biomarkers are affected by anti-inflammatory and lipid-lowering pharmacotherapy. My work has been published in peer reviewed journals including the European Heart Journal and JAMA Cardiology, and I have presented at cardiology conferences including the American College of Cardiology Scientific Session and the European Society of Cardiology Congress. I would ultimately like to run clinical trials for novel anti-inflammatory therapeutics for cardiovascular disease. My hobbies include drawing, painting, cooking, and playing with my two cats.

**Nicholas Chiu**



I was born and raised in Toronto and grew up in the cold Canadian winters blissfully shoveling driveways alongside my twin brother (who is also going into Cardiology!). For undergrad, I journeyed far across the border to warmer climates here in Boston, where I studied in the 7-Year BA/MD Medical Program at Boston University and majored in Economics and Medical Sciences. During medical school, I obtained a Master's in Public Health in Quantitative Methods at the Harvard School of Public Health. I stayed in Boston to complete my residency in Internal Medicine at BIDMC. I am interested in an academic career in cardiology with a focus on cardiovascular outcomes, health policy, and implementation sciences. In the future, I hope to learn how to conduct clinical trials in the implementation sciences space to identify effective interventions to maximize population benefits of proven cardiometabolic therapies. In my free time, you will find me exercising. I like to run, bike, and lift weights. Love to also hang out with friends and play soccer, basketball, and miscellaneous racquet sports. Learning to rock-climb...and trying hard to justify a very over-priced rock-climbing membership. A night of board games with friends is always a good time. Looking forward to an exciting four years with my co-fellows!

**Brigitte Kazzi**



I am a Lebanese American physician. I pursued my undergraduate studies in the American University of Beirut where I graduated with high honors prior to moving across the globe to complete my medical studies at Columbia University in New York City. I received several awards including the Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Award for academic excellence. I subsequently completed residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in internal medicine. My research publications have spanned the fields of structural cardiology, women's cardiovascular health, and cardiac imaging. Outside of work, you'll find me hiking, trying out new restaurants, or planning my next trip.

**Bao Le**



I was born in Vietnam and raised in Houston, Texas. I ventured out west to attend Stanford University for college and stayed in the Bay Area to complete medical school, residency, and a year as chief resident at UCSF. I aspire to one day become an academic cardiologist with a clinical focus in heart failure and my current academic interests involve incorporating graphic and digital design into medical education. To this end, I am currently working on developing and studying an initiative to bring high-yield, clinically-relevant, and aesthetic teaching materials to learners and teachers of clinical cardiology and internal medicine. Outside of medicine, I enjoy working out, exploring new places to eat, watching stand-up, and spending time with friends and family.

### **Kevin Lo**



I was born and raised in the Philippines, took up nursing as undergraduate course and medical school at the University of Santo Tomas. After a 1-year internship at the Philippine General Hospital, longing to experience the fruits of western medicine, I decided to pursue further training in the US. I did my internal medicine residency at Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia where I also served as chief resident. After that, I continued to work in hospital medicine in the same institution. Throughout my training, after being molded and guided by my mentors, I fell in love with research and cardiology. In the process, I earned a MS in Clinical Research and have also decided to pursue cardiology fellowship. My main interests are in the cardiorenal-metabolic space and heart failure. I also want to leverage big data to answer clinical questions not just in cardiology but also in medicine in general. Outside of medicine, I love cooking, hiking, watching movies, playing the guitar, dining at restaurants, and playing video games.

## **Second Year Fellows**

### **Rahul Aggarwal**



I grew up in a smaller town in Iowa – Clinton, with amazing parents and a super smart younger brother. I did my undergraduate at Washington University, then moved to Boston for medical school at Boston University. I completed residency at Beth Israel Deaconess. I love to learn about advanced statistical methods, outcomes, and health services research. I have a strong love of math. I enjoy spending time trying new restaurants, hanging out with friends, and ordering take out with my wife. I enjoy traveling, am learning to cook, and miss my days on the high school varsity tennis team. I am incredibly excited to be in Boston!

### **Arash Aghajani Nargesi**



Arash Nargesi is a clinical fellow in cardiovascular medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is a graduate of Internal Medicine residency program at Yale New Haven Hospital and holds a Medical Doctorate (MD) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He investigated the cardiovascular outcomes in obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome. As a post-doctoral research fellow at Mayo Clinic, his research on the interplay of metabolic syndrome and vascular biology was funded by the American Heart Association (AHA). During his residency at Yale, he assessed the national trends in eligibilities and utilization of novel cardiovascular therapies, such as SGLT-2i, GLP-1RAs, and PCSK-9i. He is currently pursuing artificial intelligence-based strategies to leverage high-dimensional data, such as electronic health records, to address existing gaps in implementation of guideline-directed therapies in clinical practice.

### **Jacob Burns**



I grew up in central New Jersey before moving to Chicago, IL to attend college and medical school at Northwestern University. I then completed my internal medicine training at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the Osler Medical Residency. I was excited to move to Boston to begin fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Brigham and Women's Hospital. During my medical training, I have been fortunate to work with outstanding mentors conducting clinical research on drivers of adverse outcomes in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). As a first year fellow, I am still determining my future clinical focus within cardiology. Outside of the hospital, I enjoy following New York sports (even in Boston) and exploring Boston neighborhoods with friends.

### **Max Coll**



I was born and raised in Santa Fe, NM before eventually moving to New York City for high school. After graduating from high school, I jumped around the country attending Washington University in St. Louis for undergrad, where I met my amazing wife Molly, and then heading to Washington, D.C. where I attended Georgetown University for medical school. I then completed my residency here at Brigham and Women's Hospital before starting my fellowship in cardiovascular medicine. Currently, I am a first-year fellow with clinical interests in heart failure and interventional cardiology. I will be taking a pause after my second year of fellowship to spend a year back at the Brigham and Women's Internal Medicine Residency to act as one of their Chief Residents before returning to continue my training as a robust academic cardiologist. When I am not working with my amazing co-fellows in the hospital, I enjoy spending time with my fantastic wife Molly and son Benny, attempting to cook unique gourmet meals, and playing golf and basketball (hopefully without Injury).

### **Amanda Garfinkel**



Amanda grew up in Westfield, New Jersey and headed down south to the land of the pine for college, where she majored in History of Medicine at Duke. She completed medical school at Weill Cornell and residency at Brigham and Women's before starting her cardiovascular medicine fellowship at BWH. She is interested in cardiac critical care, heart failure, genetics, and medical humanities. In her free time she can usually be found skiing, hiking, playing tennis, visiting family and friends, or scouting out Boston's Greek and Mediterranean food scene.

### **Tracy Makuvire**



My name is Tracy Makuvire. I was born and raised in Zimbabwe. I attended college at Stanford University in sunny Palo Alto California, where I majored in Human Biology with a focus on women's health. After graduation, I spent a gap year teaching sophomore year students in the Human Biology core courses. I attended medical school at Harvard Medical School, where I continued to pursue research interests in global health and women's health, with a scholarly project in South Africa. I completed my internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where I joined the Global Health Equity Residency and completed my MPH at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. My research interests are in women's cardiovascular health,

global health equity, and health disparities in heart failure diagnosis and treatment. Outside of work, you can find me running outside in warmer weather, hiking in the White Mountains, or enjoying a riveting discussion of current books in my Book Club

### **Avi Singh**



I was born and raised in Chandigarh, India. After completing medical school in India, I went on to complete a research fellowship in Cardiac Amyloidosis and Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. While in Boston, I pursued a Master of Medical Science degree at Harvard Medical School with a focus in Clinical Investigation. I then completed Internal Medicine residency at Yale and stayed back for another year as Chief Resident. My clinical interests include acute care resuscitation, POCUS and critical care cardiology. My research interests have been focused on clinical outcomes research in infiltrative cardiomyopathy and premature coronary artery disease. Outside of the hospital, I love to travel, cook Indian food, and play Call of Duty. On a weekend, you can find me enjoying brunch.

## **Third Year Fellows**

### **Ezim Ajufu**



I was born in Lagos, Nigeria, raised in Northwest London, and studied medicine at the University of Oxford. During medical school, I got involved in some basic science and clinical research, and through these opportunities, became somewhat intrigued by the scientific process and the outlet it provided beyond clinical medicine. After medical school and two years of post-graduate practice in the NHS, I moved to the US to join Daniel Rader's group at the University of Pennsylvania as a research fellow. After two foundational years with this group that introduced me to the concept and practice of population genetics, I moved to Dallas to complete internal medicine residency and later a chief resident year at UTSW. As I now transition to the research portion of cardiology fellowship, my goal is to build on my early experience and apply population genetic and non-genetic methods to understanding complex cardiovascular phenotypes. Outside of work, I love to spend time with friends, explore the city, its food scene and surroundings and watch live comedy shows.

### **Curt Ginder**



Curt is a second-year general cardiology fellow who plans to pursue advanced subspecialty training in critical care and biomedical informatics. Curt is originally from Carmel, Indiana and obtained his MD/MBA degrees from the University of Chicago followed by internal medicine training at BWH. Curt is interested in the development and validation of risk prediction models using multimodality cardiovascular imaging, hemodynamic, and device data. Outside of clinical medicine, Curt is an entrepreneur and co-founded a healthcare IT company called TimeDoc Health. Curt enjoys spending time with his wife, two children, and Bernese Mountain Dog.

### **John Ostrominski**



Originally from Austin, TX, I completed medical school at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, during which time I took part in the Medical Research Scholars Program of the National Institutes of Health, prior to matching to BWH for internal medicine residency. My interests lie broadly in the intersection between multimorbidity and cardiovascular outcomes, including specific focuses on obesity, heart failure, and prevention. Practically, I am interested in cardio-renal-metabolic and anti-obesity drug discovery, novel implementation tools/techniques, and both traditional and pragmatic trials. To this end, leveraging the immense advocacy, flexibility, and resources of BWH/MGB, I will additionally complete an Obesity Medicine fellowship at BWH in 2023-2024. Other than frequently offering unsolicited advice about visiting Austin and other major cities in Texas, my time outside medicine is largely spent finding novel ways to enjoy New England with my fiancé, taking ample photos of our cat, playing the occasional round of golf, and perfecting multimodality techniques for making coffee.

### **Gary Peng**



I am originally from Toronto, Canada (go Raptors). I obtained my MD/PhD at Columbia and then completed my internal medicine training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. I am currently in my second year of cardiology fellowship (and loving it!). My academic interests lie at the intersection between electrophysiology, translational/basic science research, and genetics. In my spare time I enjoy reading novels and exploring restaurants in Boston. If you are looking for restaurant recommendations, I suggest trying Bar Taco in the seaport district and Café Mami in Cambridge. If you are looking for book recommendations (and unfazed by 1000+ pages), I deeply enjoyed reading the Count of Monte Cristo.

### **Ozzie Unlu**



I was born and raised in Ankara, Turkey, where I attended Hacettepe University for my medical education. I subsequently joined the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City as a post-doctoral fellow, where I participated in and led several studies on antiphospholipid syndrome and systemic lupus erythematosus and their cardiovascular manifestations. I then completed my internal medicine residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine, where I stayed as a Chief Resident for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety for an additional year. During my tenure at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, I had the opportunity to work on several studies on medication optimization in patients with heart failure, which sparked my interest in implementation and dissemination science. Currently, I am a fellow in Cardiovascular Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School and will begin a fellowship in Clinical Informatics at Mass General Brigham in July 2023, concurrently pursuing a master's degree in Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School. I am highly interested in implementation studies and

pragmatic clinical trials, with a particular focus on innovative application of technology and information science to improve healthcare delivery and costs. Clinically, I have a passion for interventional cardiology and its intersection with critical care cardiology, with an interest in complex and high-risk coronary interventions. Outside of work, I enjoy playing electric guitar, hiking with my dog, skiing, playing virtual-reality games, and travelling with family and friends.

## Senior Fellows

### Adam Berman



I was born in Boston and grew up in Sharon, MA. After attending Yeshiva University in New York City, I spent a year designing and leading international humanitarian service programs for undergraduate students. I then attended the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, graduating in 2016. After spending those 9 years in New York City, I was excited to come back to Boston for my internal medicine residency training at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Prior to my clinical cardiology fellowship at BWH in July of 2020, I was an NIH-funded T32 research fellow during the 2019-2020 academic year, investigating a variety of areas within preventative cardiology. Currently, I am a Fellow in Health Policy and Management at the Massachusetts General Physicians Organization where I am leading pragmatic clinical trials in cardiovascular population health. Additionally, I am pursuing my MPH at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Finally, I am pursuing additional training and clinical specialization in Critical Care Cardiology at BWH during my final two years of training. The cardiovascular training at the Brigham is unparalleled and the opportunities are truly limitless. Without a doubt, one of the best parts of training is getting to work with amazing friends and supportive colleagues each day. Most importantly, when I'm not caring for patients or doing research, I love spending quality time with my wife (a clinical pharmacist) and our three children.

### Prakriti Gaba



Prakriti Gaba, MD, graduated with high honors from the California Institute of Technology, where she double majored in bioengineering and business economics. She completed internal medicine residency at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City and is currently a senior cardiology fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, where she conducts research through cardiovascular clinical trials. She is also an MPH degree candidate at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Prakriti is passionate about a clinical career in Interventional Cardiology and leading clinical trials that investigate novel treatments for coronary artery disease, structural heart disease as well as rethinking clinical trial design.

### Casey Ireland



I'm originally from Chattanooga, TN, and completed undergrad at the University of Georgia before returning to Tennessee for medical school. My husband and I started our progressive move up the eastern seaboard when I matched to Hopkins for medicine residency, continuing by coming to Brigham for cardiology training. After a brief return to Hopkins for an ACS (chief residency) year in 2020, we've finally settled into Boston life and are enjoying all the city has to offer. When I'm not running, watching UGA football, or exploring new restaurants, I'm spending my research years studying HCM and DCM with our amazing cardio-genetics team. I plan to complete an advanced heart failure fellowship in 2024-25 and eventually end up in an academic position where I can split my time between patient care and clinical research.

### **Maria Pabon**



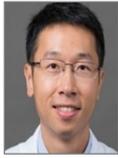
I was born and raised in Cucuta, Colombia, and did medical school at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogota. I then worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City for two years, doing basic science and translational research. After this wonderful experience, I stayed at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical Center for residency and did an additional year as Chief Medical Resident. I am completing my cardiology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital. My clinical and research interests are in cardio-obstetrics and women's health. Outside the hospital, I enjoy yoga, reading, and long walks with my dog Milo.

### **Sam Slavin**



I was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I obtained my undergraduate degree with a major in history and literature from Yale University, then studied medicine at Harvard Medical School, and completed internal medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. Prior to medical training, I worked on community health initiatives for patients with chronic diseases in Haiti, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and back home in Boston. I am passionate about understanding how trust, relationships, and illness narratives shape health outcomes. My current research focus is on misinformation and patient-clinician relationships in cardiovascular prevention. Outside of medicine, I enjoy distance running (soon to be accompanied by my son, now 6 months old), short fiction, narrative writing, and exploring the world through languages and food. Someday I'll learn to dance salsa.

**Eric Wei**



I was born in China, and grew up in Canada and the Midwestern United States. I attended college at Columbia University, majoring in biomedical engineering. I then pursued my MD/PhD training at Duke University, followed by Internal Medicine residency at Duke Hospital. Having completed my clinical cardiology training at BWH, I am currently a post-doctoral fellow in Drs. Christine and Jonathan Seidman's lab at Harvard Medical School. My research aims to improve our understanding of the molecular mechanisms driving genetic cardiomyopathies and cardiac arrhythmias. Outside of the lab, I enjoy hiking, photography, tennis, and spending time with my family.