

In Touch

Physician Leadership Development
Program Newsletter

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SUMMER 2021



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PLDP WELCOMES NEW CANDIDATES

The Physician Leadership Development Program is pleased to welcome the following M.D./M.B.A. and M.D./M.P.H. candidates.

RHO COHORT—CLASS OF 2024

Alexis Marrin, M.P.H. Candidate

Hometown: Wadsworth, Ohio

Education: Wadsworth High School, Wadsworth, Ohio; The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, B.S., Biology



Alexis Marrin, M.P.H. Candidate

SIGMA COHORT – CLASS OF 2025

Amber Prater, M.P.H. Candidate

Hometown: Dayton, Ohio

Education: Northridge High School, Dayton, Ohio; Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio, A.S., Liberal Arts and Sciences; Berea College, Kentucky, B.A., Biology



Amber Prater, M.P.H. Candidate

Hunter Hanlon-Taylor, M.B.A. Candidate

Hometown: Monroe Falls, Ohio

Education: Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio; Duquesne University, Pennsylvania, B.S., Biology



Hunter Hanlon-Taylor, M.B.A. Candidate

PLDP EVENTS

CLASS OF 2021 MATCH PANEL

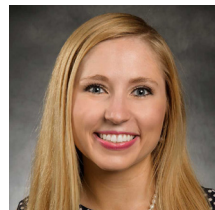
Katelynn Alcorn – Psychiatry at University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Jacqueline Jacobs – Completing a transitional year and then diagnostic radiology at Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

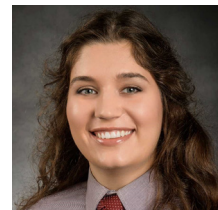
Amanda Lin – Neurology at The Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio

Jessica Sokol – Family medicine at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Long Beach, California

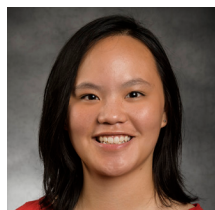
Taylor Yeates – Pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio



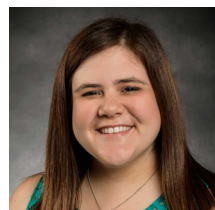
Katelynn Alcorn



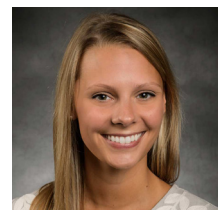
Jacqueline Jacobs



Amanda Lin



Jessica Sokol



Taylor Yeates

ALUMNI UPDATES & ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Katie Takayasu

Katie Takayasu, M.D., M.B.A., PLDP, '09, lives in Darien, Connecticut, and works as an attending physician in Stamford, Connecticut, at the Center for Integrative Medicine and Wellness at Stamford Hospital. She is the founder of DrKatie.com and recently completed the manuscript for her first book, *Plants First: A Physician's Guide to Wellness Through a Plant-Forward Diet*.



Dr. Nick Christian

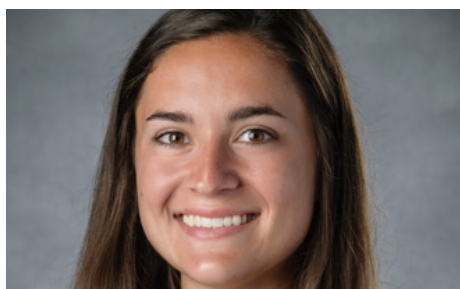
Nick Christian, M.D., M.B.A., PLDP, '17, is a chief resident in internal medicine at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas, and will be heading to New Haven, Connecticut, next year for fellowship training at the Yale University addiction medicine program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the newly elected 2021–22 PLDP Executive Council!



Chair: Teran Mickens



Treasurer: Alexis Marrin



FCC Chair: Meha Joshi

SPOTLIGHT



John McAlearney, Ph.D.

The last year has served as a very busy time for many of us, including for John McAlearney, serving his first year as the PLDP director. A health economist by training, we asked McAlearney to reflect on his first year as PLDP director, the challenges he's faced, and the great things he plans for the direction of the program.

Q : What was the impact of COVID on your first year as director?

A : At the start, I was happy to see the momentum that was coming out of Kyle Henneke working as chair of the PLDP executive council and the events that were coming. They were all new and had a promise of sustainability. That was very exciting. We wanted to see students taking on leadership roles and having more activities than in years past. And that's what was happening. One example was a statewide medical school public health conference. It looked like something that would not only be an amazing experience given the speakers, but also something that might continue on an annual basis. Opportunities like that were completely lost. That's tough because you have that momentum, and those things can become traditions. I thought we were in a really good place right before the pandemic. From a positive perspective, we now have access to video meetings and more experience with distance-learning. As an instructor, I have been trying to get my students for years to try to do Skype calls instead of office visits to make myself more accessible and to save the students' time. There was never any interest. Now that we are so dependent on these technologies, we can see more opportunities, whether offering a new course on physician leadership or engaging

alumni throughout the country to share their experience. A major negative of the pandemic is that I haven't been able to talk to our students in person. For me, that is the most satisfying part of this job. I can't wait to be able to do it again.

Q : Let's talk about the future of the program. What are some opportunities to look forward to?

A : We've been way busier in the last year than I ever expected. A major opportunity we've had is to expand the leadership curriculum through the Physician Leadership Pathway (PLP). We've got some people with really strong backgrounds in leadership training here at BSOM and Wright State. Presenting applied leadership training to PLDP and PLP students over the four-to-five years they are here, instead of during a single elective, is a tremendous opportunity. For example, we have leadership expertise in both Colleen Hayden and Dean Valerie Weber and they are committed to working with us. We also all believe that leadership training should be accessible to every medical student and that a dual degree can provide an enhanced benefit. If the PLDP is right for the student, and they've got interests beyond being a clinician, then we're happy to have them. But if an extra year isn't ideal for a student, we're excited to now offer leadership education and related opportunities to them as PLP students. This development is a great thing, and it is a major focus right now.

Q : What challenges does the program face moving forward?

A : One challenge is curating the relevant topics of today into a curriculum that benefits tomorrow's physicians. While we want a curriculum that's going to be relevant for our students in the future, we need to select skills they can work on while they are here and in their residency programs. It is not practical or useful to focus on skills they would never use for the first 20 years of their professional careers. Another challenge I foresee is how to incorporate the concept of personal character development into our program. For physicians, a strong character is very important. It builds relationships with your patients as well as your clinical team members. And if people trust you, they will support and listen to your ideas. If they see

you as someone with integrity, they will trust your decision-making and help bring about needed change. Not only that, but such changes will be sustained even after you have moved on. Trying to engage students in character building through the curriculum is extremely important. If they are successful, their investment will result in genuinely meaningful careers that are less susceptible to burnout.

Q : If you could tell PLDP alumni two things, what would they be?

A : First, I'd say thank you for all the trailblazing you did. You helped create the program we have today. You were student leaders—people who, during medical school, wanted to explore being a leader. You did amazing work and you really set the stage. Secondly, I'd also like to thank you for being the wonderful ambassadors you were and continue to be. You made this program shine throughout the university. The non-clinical faculty members I interact with who had you in their courses or programs always tell me how much they enjoy PLDP students. So, thank you. You did the heavy lifting and the hard work early on, and that really has made this program what it is today.

Q : What two things would you like to tell those who are starting their academic careers here at Boonshoft School of Medicine?

A : Really give this program consideration if you're interested in helping to lead a health care organization in any capacity. Also, if you're interested in population or health research, please contact us to learn more. It may be a good time for you to pursue a dual degree. The other thing to consider is physician burnout. It can be said that the leadership skills and the additional training you gain in the PLDP is an investment in your clinical training. The additional skills give you more options in dealing with burnout (should it arise), as it can allow you to expand your scope of work in health care.



STUDENT UPDATES & ACHIEVEMENTS



Jessica Sokol

Jessica Sokol, '21, received the 2021 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service at the Boonshoft School of Medicine graduation ceremony. The award recognizes outstanding students who are committed to advocacy, education, and service in the field of public health.



Kyle Henneke

Kyle Henneke, '23, worked the last year with the BSOM Department of Population Health and Public Sciences to develop a contact tracing system, hire and train contact tracers, and supervise contact tracing for five Ohio counties. He also worked as a field researcher for the COVID-19 study initiated by Governor DeWine with the help of The Ohio State University to investigate the spread of the virus within public school systems. This work was vital to helping the governor make decisions on options for a return to in-school learning for Ohio youth. His research on seasonal flu vaccination programs through emergency departments was presented at this year's GSACEP. He also recently presented his capstone research, Ohio Clinical and Systems Level Factors That Influence Prehospital Triage, at this year's Medical Student Research Symposium here at Wright State. He graduated with his Master of Public Health, completed a certificate in emergency public health, and joined his new cohort for his last two years of medical school in May.



Katelynn Alcorn

Katelynn Alcorn and Taylor Yeates, '21, received the American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Citation for Academic Achievement at the Boonshoft School of Medicine graduation ceremony.



Taylor Yeates



Amber Prater

Amber Prater, '25, is volunteering monthly with BOGG Food Ministry to deliver a months' worth of groceries to over 30 families in Wilmington Apartments. She was recently appointed to be the director of public relations for American Medical Student Association.

Our Mission: To foster the development of ethical and courageous physician leaders who seek improvements in health care.

Our Vision: As an educational community, the Physician Leadership Development Program envisions a future of diverse clinicians that are commonly devoted to leadership development, health equity, inclusion, justice, quality and innovation.