Welcome to Our New Fellows

As a new year begins, we are excited to welcome six new Cardiovascular Disease fellows and two new fellows in our subspecialty programs for the 2022-2023 year! We are also delighted to have old friends in new roles in Cardiac Imaging and Interventional Cardiology.

Our incoming class is a very accomplished group! We are so excited to welcome them and know they will all be great additions to our Section. To get to know each of our new fellows, please see their photos and read their bios on subsequent pages. Here’s to a great 2022-23 year!

A Year for the Books: 2021-2022 Fellowship Year

We have just completed a remarkable 2021-22 fellowship year. Our fellows made us proud with many accomplishments and contributions. They dedicated countless hours to our Section, providing incredible patient care, all while growing as leaders, teachers and scientists. On behalf of all Cardiology faculty and staff, we thank you all for your hard work and offer big congratulations to our graduates.

Hail to the Chief

We’d like to welcome Dr. Maxine Tang as the new Chief Fellow for the 2022– 2023 fellowship year! Maxine has hit the ground running and will do an outstanding job. Big thanks to Anthony Kanelidis for his incredible work as Chief Fellow for the past year!!
The New Faces of Cardiology Fellowship

Marie (Molly) Altenburg
I was born in Fort Belvoir, Virginia and grew up on Army posts in the US and Germany. I was a professional ballet dancer before and after getting a degree in English Literature at Harvard. After I stopped dancing I completed graduate work in Sociology at the University of Cambridge and taught yoga and Pilates. I went to medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago intending to pursue rehab medicine and work with dancers, but fell in love with internal medicine. I completed my residency training at Georgetown and am completing a year as a Chief Resident at the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC. When I’m not in the hospital I love to binge novels, deep-dive cookbooks, forage responsibly, learn board and card games popular with grandparents, jog/bike impressively slowly and look at art.

Christopher Fernandez
I was born and raised in LaGrange, IL. I went to Johns Hopkins University to study molecular and cellular biology and stayed after graduation to pursue a master’s in health sciences at the School of Public Health. During that time, I also worked on a high sensitivity troponin study before the assay was used clinically in the US which introduced me to the field of Cardiology. I later went to the University of Illinois at Chicago for medical school and then to the University of Chicago for Internal Medicine Residency. Outside of medicine, I enjoy sports (baseball and strength/endurance sports), playing electric guitar, craft coffee, and eating at new places. I am looking forward to working with everyone, learning everything cardiology, and getting my hands dirty in the cath lab.

Jia Guo
I was born in Dalian, China and raised in the Chicagoland area. I attended the University of Chicago for undergrad, double majoring in chemistry and biological chemistry. I love the enriching academic environment of UChicago so much that I stayed on for medical school, residency, and now fellowship! In my spare time, I enjoy painting, drawing, biking along Chicago’s scenic lake front, and traveling with my family. I am thrilled to be staying here for fellowship and looking forward to working with everyone for 3 more years!
Linda Liu

I was born in Rockville, Maryland but spent the majority of my life growing up in Toronto, Canada where I completed undergrad at the University of Toronto. I returned stateside to attend medical school at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, where I met my fiancé CJ (and also my med school best friend and now co-fellow, Shirlene!). We sought a brief reprieve from the cold winters and couples matched to the University of Washington to complete residency and my chief year. We’re now excited to return to the midwest with our +1, a Shiba Inu named Toshi! In my spare time, I enjoy videography (writing, directing, filming & editing), photography, and traveling.

Michael Randazzo

I was born and raised in a northern suburb of Philadelphia, PA but decided to venture across the state to attend college at the University of Pittsburgh. After spending a year applying my degree as a biosignals and imaging engineer, my family and passion for Philadelphia sports lured me back to my hometown to pursue medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. For residency, I finally mustered the courage to leave Pennsylvania and was fortunate enough to train at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. My wife Ashley and I have greatly enjoyed running through Central Park, dining at a never-ending list of restaurants, and regularly attending Broadway plays. I am so thrilled to start cardiology fellowship at the University of Chicago and look forward to meeting everyone!

Giancarlo Saldana

I grew up in Lima, Peru. After completing my high school education there I moved to Chicago for college and medical school. I attended the University of Illinois College of Medicine and was fortunate enough to interact and learn from a very diverse patient population. After medical school, I was very thankful to have matched at the University of Chicago for Internal Medicine Residency where I was able to sharpen my clinical skills and continue to care for the underserved communities in the South Side of Chicago. I enjoy cooking, playing video games, and soccer.
New Advanced Fellows of 2022-2023

**Amulya Gampa - Cardiac Electrophysiology**

I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and have spent most of my life here. I went to UIC for my undergraduate training and medical school. I was at the University of Chicago for internal medicine residency. I did my general cardiology fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, and now I’m thrilled to come back to Chicago for my EP fellowship! I’m very excited to rejoin the University of Chicago family again. In my free time I enjoy baking and cake decorating, spending time with family, and traveling when I can. I can’t wait to meet and work with everyone!

**Dipayon Roy– Cardiac Electrophysiology**

I was born in Los Alamos, NM and grew up mainly in the San Francisco Bay Area. I went to the University of Southern California (USC) where I earned my Bachelors and Master’s degrees in Biomedical Engineering. I then decided to pursue a career in medicine and earned my MD from USC and stayed in Los Angeles for Internal Medicine training at USC. I then moved to Tampa, FL for Cardiology fellowship at the University of South Florida and am excited to join the University of Chicago for EP fellowship. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife Kavita and daughter Veena, exploring restaurants, running, practicing martial arts, watching sports, and cheering on Bay Area teams. I am looking forward to working with everyone at the University of Chicago and exploring everything the city has to offer with my family.

**Akash Rusia– Advanced Heart Failure**

Originally for northwest Indiana, I completed medical school at Indiana University, residency at University of Southern California, and cardiology fellowship at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan where I was chief fellow my third year. I was fortunate to meet my wife Sati during residency training at USC and we actually couples matched into cardiology! Outside of work, I am a huge Chicago sports fan, I love trying new restaurants, and spending time with friends. I’m very excited to start heart failure fellowship and meet everyone!
Stanley Swat– Advanced Heart Failure
I am originally from the Northwest side of Chicago, though my baseball loyalties always raise an eyebrow (White Sox fan!). I attended college at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I studied molecular biology and business. After college, I headed right back to Chicago for medical school at Rush Medical College and internal medicine residency at Northwestern McGaw Medical Center. Having never lived outside of Illinois, I made the trek out West to settle in Colorado for the past 3+ years where I completed my Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Colorado followed by a cardiovascular outcomes research year. Although difficult to be leaving Colorado, I am excited to be joining the cardiology family at the University of Chicago for Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Fellowship. Outside of work I enjoy spending time outdoors, trying new cooking recipes with my wife Liz (we love to host!), and trivia nights!

Pallavi Pradeep– Cardiovascular Prevention
I was born and raised in in New Delhi, India. I went to medical school at Manipal University in southern India. I moved to the US in 2017 and completed my residency in Internal Medicine from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. I stayed around the area after residency and completed my fellowship in Endocrinology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I have a keen interest in metabolic disorders, which led me to the Preventive Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Chicago! In my free time, I enjoy cooking and exploring new restaurants. I also love doing Pilates! I look forward to working with everyone.

Old Friends in new advanced fellowship roles....
We didn’t ask them to submit new bios/pictures, but we are thrilled that 4 of our 2022 general fellowship graduates are staying on as advanced fellows in Cardiac Imaging and Intervention!! See more about our graduates below…
Let’s Get Personal!!

Fellowship Class of 2046 – New Recruits

- Andrea and Linda Lee welcomed Elina Grace on 1/19/22.
- Anna and Mark Belkin welcomed Samuel on 2/11/2022

Elina Grace Lee            Samuel John Belkin

Engaged!

- Nicole Prabhu and Ajit Ramadugu were engaged in February, 2022!!

Married!

- Shirlene Obuobi and Justin Barnowski were married on June 4, 2022!!
- Eisha Wali and Nimit Desai were married on August 14, 2021!!
Congratulations to the 2022 Graduates!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Section of Cardiology was founded in 1950 at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Rishi Pandya will be an Advanced Fellow in Intervention at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Eisha Wali will be an Advanced Imaging Fellow at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Nikhil Singh will be a Non-Invasive Cardiologist at Ascension Health in Chicago.

Dr. AbdulRahman Abutaleb will be an Advanced Fellow in Intervention at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Linda Lee will be an Advanced Imaging Fellow at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Ian Hackett will be a Non-Invasive Cardiologist at Minneapolis Heart Institute-Allina Health in St. Paul, MN.

Congratulations to our Graduating Advanced Fellows too!

Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology

- Mark Belkin will be an Assistant Professor at The University of Chicago.
- Mark Dela Cruz will be a Cardiologist for the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgical Associates group at Advocate Christ and Rush University.

Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology

- Ryan Burris will be a Cardiac Electrophysiologist at Cardiology Specialists of Orange County.
- Aalap Narichania will be a Cardiac Electrophysiologist at Legacy Health in Portland, Oregon.

Interventional Cardiology

- Ali Alsaaad will be an Interventional Cardiologist at Tulane University in New Orleans.
- Abdul Dia will be an Interventional/Structural Cardiologist at DuPage Medical Group in Southwest suburbs.

Cardiac Imaging

- Michael Henry will be a General Cardiologist with focus in structural heart imaging at Asheville Cardiology Associates in North Carolina.
- Jeremy Slivnick will be an Assistant Professor at The University of Chicago.
2021-2022
Rory R. Childers Cardiology Faculty
Teaching Award

Dr. Childers came to the University of Chicago in 1963 as a Cardiology fellow and remained here for 50 years. He became a renowned authority on the movement of electrical impulses within the beating heart and the use and interpretation of electrocardiograms. He lectured widely and received many honors. He was awarded the teaching award by the fellows so many times that the award was named after him.

Each year the fellows have the difficult task of choosing a faculty member to give the prestigious Rory Childers Teaching Award. It goes to a faculty member who the graduating class feels has inspired them and provided and outstanding mentorship and teaching.

This year, The Rory R. Childers Cardiology Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Zaid Aziz

Congratulations, Dr. Aziz!
We are incredibly proud of our very own rising 2nd year fellow, Shirlene Obuobi. Shirlene’s debut novel, *On Rotation*, was released on June 21st released via Avon/Harper Collins. Shirlene is currently off doing those things that great young authors do. She recently was invited to be the AOA speaker for the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson, Class of 2022, and among a daunting schedule of media appearances as part of her book tour, Shirlene will be on Good Morning America on July 5! GO SHIRLENE!!!

---

**Morton Arnsdorf**  
**Cardiovascular Research Day**

The symposium highlights the research within the Sections of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Cardiac Anesthesiology and Interventional Radiology. This day is named in honor of our esteemed friend, mentor and colleague who we continue to miss greatly.

Unfortunately, 2022 Arnsdorf Research Day was a COVID-19 causality, but it will come back even stronger in 2023!
Wow!!

Our fellows have had a very impressive academic production this year....

**Publications and Abstracts**


- **Han J**, Grinstein J. To vent or not to vent: the critical role of left ventricular venting with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support. Cardiovasc Revasc Med. 2022. S1553-8389(22)00208-1. PMID: 35491384
• Han J, Kransdorf EP, Rushakoff J, Moayedi Y, Henricksen E, Lee R, Luikart H, Shalakhti O, Benck L, Malinoski D, Kobashigawa JA, Teuteberg JJ, Khush KK, Patel JK. Sensitization is independently associated with increased risk of primary graft dysfunction after heart transplantation. Oral presentation at the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) 2022, Boston, MA

• Han J, Kransdorf EP, Rushakoff J, Moayedi Y, Henricksen E, Lee R, Luikart H, Shalakhti O, Benck L, Malinoski D, Kobashigawa JA, Teuteberg JJ, Khush KK, Patel JK. Spontaneous donor hypothermia is independently associated with increased risk of primary graft dysfunction after heart transplant. Oral presentation at ISHLT 2022, Boston, MA

• Han J, Guzman J, Moayedi Y, Foroutan F, Truby L, et al. Regional differences in primary graft dysfunction in heart transplantation: a report from the International Consortium on Primary Graft Dysfunction. Oral presentation at the European Society for Organ Transplantation 2021, Milan, Italy


• Lee L, Mor-Avi V, Lang RM. Artificial Intelligence in Echocardiography: Key Concepts and Emerging Applications; Submitted for Review.


• Kanelidis, Anthony, **Miller, P**, et al. “ATTR Cardiac Amyloidosis Meets Multiple Myeloma: The Importance of Cardiac biopsy.” *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, vol. 77, no. 18, 2021, p. 2309,. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0735-1097(21)03664-0].


• **Singh N.**, Ding L., Magee G., Shavelle D. Contemporary Treatment of Below the Knee Peripheral Arterial Disease in Patients with Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia: Observations from the Vascular Quality Initiative. Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions. 2022; 99(4): 1289-1299.


publications and abstracts continue…

- **Singh N., Kalathiya R.** Transient Complete Heart Block: A Case Report of a Rare Complication of Tricuspid Valve Endocarditis. EHJ Case Reports. 2021; 5(8): 1-5.


- Nicholas Kassis MD, Tomas Kovarnik MD PhD, Zhi Chen PhD, **Joseph R Weber MD**, Brendan Martin PhD, Amir Darki MD, Vincent Woo MD, Andreas Wahle PhD, Milan Sonka PhD, and John J Lopez MD. Fibrous Cap Thickness Predicts Stable Coronary Plaque Progression: Early Clinical Validation of Semi-Automated OCT Technology. JSCAI
Posters and Presentations


Posters and Presentations continue…


- American College of Cardiology (ACC): Cardiac Sarcoidosis – “The Great Masquerader” – Can’t Hide From Multimodality Cardiac Imaging; January 25, 2022; Webinar. **Wali E**, Patel AR. Diagnostic confirmation of a new diagnosis of cardiac sarcoidosis with a focus on differential diagnosis/other phenocopies.