



# Connections

MAYO CLINIC SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER 2018



## From the Alumni Association president

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest alumni, the 2018 MCSHS graduating classes, from all of us on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

It's inspiring to acknowledge that there are more than 21,000 graduates from MCSHS. As you go forth in your health care fields, remember the roots you established with Mayo Clinic by embracing your membership and future roles in the Alumni Association.

Do you want to get involved sooner rather than later? Consider nominating yourself or someone you feel should serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors (page 22), and consider registering to be a mentor to current and future MCSHS students.

I invite you to register for the Alumni Association annual meeting and dinner on April 26 in Rochester. It's a great way to connect with fellow alumni and listen to a topic presented by a keynote speaker (page 21). At that meeting, the Recognition of Outstanding Contribution award is presented to a deserving alum. Get your nominations in for this award by Jan. 31 (page 25).

You can do all of these things on the Alumni Association website, [mshsalumni.mayo.edu](http://mshsalumni.mayo.edu).

I offer some personal reflections as I think back to my beginnings as a student in an allied health care field.

- Embrace your beginnings. Remember the sense of wonder and accomplishment you experienced in the beginning in your field.
- Expand your knowledge base by questioning your colleagues, inspiring them to share their expertise.
- Harbor a sense of teamwork with other members of the health care team, the students you teach and others you encounter along the way. In the not-so-distant future, these individuals will look up to you as you once looked up to your teachers, role models and mentors.
- Maintain a healthy work-life balance. Being kind to yourself and others will strengthen your career and personal relationships.
- Pay it forward. You are the legacy of what it means to be graduates of Mayo Clinic's exemplary health science programs.

*Jocelyn Moen*

Jocelyn Moen, RDCS (ECHO '99)  
Registered diagnostic cardiac sonographer  
Mayo Clinic Rochester

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# Highlights 2018



## 21,441 alumni strong

Use the MCSHS Alumni Association website to connect with alumni in your community. Be sure to complete your alumni profile, [mshsalumni.mayo.edu](https://mshsalumni.mayo.edu), so others can connect with you.



## No. 1 in the nation

Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences students learn and train in No. 1-ranked hospitals on all three Mayo Clinic campuses. Once again, Mayo Clinic was named the best hospital in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual list of top hospitals. Mayo Clinic ranked No. 1 in Arizona, Florida and Minnesota.

- Mayo Clinic ranked No. 1 in the Jacksonville, Florida, and Phoenix, Arizona, metro areas.
- Mayo Clinic has more No. 1 specialty rankings than any other hospital in the country.



## New programs

Since 2015 MCSHS has added more than two dozen new internships, fellowships, clinical rotations and programs. Seventeen launched in 2018.

### Florida campus

- Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Critical Care Fellowship
- Sterile Tech Clinical Rotation
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Clinical Rotation

### Arizona campus:

- Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Fellowship in Abdominal Organ Transplant (program restart)
- Integrated Behavioral Health Clinical Rotation
- Physician Assistant Fellowship in Neurosurgery
- Physician Assistant Fellowship in Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant
- Student Registered Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) Clinical Rotation

### Rochester campus:

- Occupational Therapy Hand Residency Program
- Child Life Specialist Program (program restart)
- Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Hematology Fellowship
- Clinical Pastoral Education Residency (program restart)
- Cytogenetic Technology Clinical Rotation
- Community Paramedic Program
- Pharmacy Residency in Mankato, Minnesota
- Genetic Counseling Internship, Pharmacy Technician Program



# 2018

## MEET THE GRADUATES

Meet some of the remarkable graduates of 2018. They share their career journeys, motivation and aspirations.

## Matthew H. Clark gets a new lease on life

Matthew H. Clark, APRN, CNP, MSN (NP '18, NPPA '19), says you're lucky if you're not in the hospital. "We forget how hard it is to be sick and in the hospital. Nursing is hard, but the patients are the ones having a hard time. We have the opportunity to care for them during those difficult times."

Clark recently completed a nurse practitioner clinical rotation at MCSHS through Winona State University and has begun a one-year MCSHS Nurse Practitioner Hematology Fellowship. Before starting his fellowship, he worked as a bone marrow transplant registered nurse at Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

It's not difficult for Clark to put himself in his hospitalized patients' shoes. In 2004 at age 20, he was diagnosed with familial cardiomyopathy. Five years later he had a heart transplant. Before the transplant, he had a pacemaker and defibrillator and then a left ventricular assist device (LVAD).

"Before getting any implanted devices, my heart was getting larger, and my doctors were worried I'd go into cardiac arrest," he says. "When I met the criteria for heart transplant, I couldn't walk more than 100 feet without getting short of breath. I couldn't do what my friends could do, which was isolating.

"I was eating lunch across the street from Saint Marys Hospital when I got the call asking if I wanted a new heart. I

said, 'Yes, that sounds great,' and walked across the street for intake and prep. I spent three weeks in the hospital. It was exciting not to have a machine or batteries in me anymore."

In the process of having more than 25 cardiac biopsies after his transplant and myriad follow-up appointments, Clark says he got hooked into medicine. "I had amazing interactions with and care from nurses, doctors, coordinators and techs. One of my friends suggested I should be a nurse. I had a meeting with nurse practitioner Jean Wagner (APRN, CNP, MS; NP '96), and she was so thorough, caring and holistic. A light went off in my head, and I knew I needed to go back to school to get started on the nursing path."

Clark returned to school to finish his undergraduate degree, then pursued a bachelor's degree in nursing and a nurse practitioner master's degree, followed by a clinical rotation at MCSHS. After his fellowship, Clark hopes to continue working with bone marrow transplant patients and conduct research to improve their quality of life.

"Pursuing a career in health care gave me a new lease on life," says Clark.

"I discovered I had the capacity and energy to take care of others. I love the excitement and overwhelming joy of it. I try to bring to patients some element of what others gave me when I was sick. I don't go to work because I have to. I go because I love to."

## Miriam Rassam: 'the Miriam effect'

Miriam Rassam, APRN, CNP, MSN (NPPA '18), emphasizes the importance of listening to patients. "Everyone has a story," she says.

Rassam herself has quite a story. The circumstances of her life have led her to be the positive, caring person and provider that led her classmates and program directors to unanimously select her as ambassador and chief of the MCSHS Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Emergency Medicine Fellowship.

Rassam recently completed the 18-month fellowship in Rochester, Minnesota. But her journey began as a child in Baghdad, Iraq. She and her family were on summer vacation in Florida when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Unable to return to Iraq, the family relocated to Florida. Rassam was 7 and didn't speak English. She says she was bullied almost every day for six years at her school.

"I didn't quite fit in to the culture," she says. "I cried a lot, but being bullied changed me. It made me a more sensitive adult. I'm more empathetic, and I always try to be kind to others."


Rassam was valedictorian of her school in eighth grade and an international baccalaureate graduate of her high school. The latter earned her a full academic scholarship to the University of Florida. Despite being the first in her immediate family to earn a college degree, she says she didn't have a clear vision for her life. Her uncle, a physician, recommended she pursue a career in nursing. "Uncle Andrew saw potential in me," she says. "He said no matter what career I chose, I should be good at it and enjoy it."

Rassam moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Emory University and then to Denver, Colorado, for a master's of nursing in family nurse practitioner degree from the University of Colorado. She wanted even more education and applied for the MCSHS fellowship. "In nursing school, my emergency medicine rotation was the first time I really felt challenged," she says. "I like being part of patients' lives in the moment when their need is greatest."

Rassam attempts to maintain a healthy lifestyle due to some autoimmune conditions. During her fellowship, Rassam was diagnosed with an additional autoimmune disease and struggled with her health. She changed her diet and exercise and rediscovered yoga. She liked yoga so much that she became an instructor. She began doing mindfulness exercises and journaling. "Having a chronic illness was a wakeup call that my health is as important anyone else's," says Rassam. "Focusing on being present in the moment and journaling about what I'm grateful for helps me be my best self."

Rassam's focus on her own health and well-being rubbed off on her classmates and others involved with the fellowship. "Emergency medicine has a high burnout rate among advanced practice providers, and Miriam became a champion of professional wellness for her peers," says Victoria Clemens, PA-C (PA '07), program director of the MCSHS NPPA Emergency Medicine Fellowship. "Her passion for wellness had a recognizably positive effect on fellowship leaders as well. The 'Miriam effect' is contagious. I'm sure she'll have a similar effect on the patients fortunate enough to be in her care."





"I like being part  
of patients' lives  
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Miriam Rassam

## Alexander Kehren, focused on teamwork and serving patients

Alexander Kehren, RTT (RAD '17, RTT '18), has a new job as a radiation therapist in the Proton Beam Therapy Program at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Radiation therapists work in teams of two. Teamwork is natural for Kehren, who spent four years in the U.S. Marines as a vehicle crew chief, driving amphibious assault vehicles. He was deployed to Japan for six months.

"Teamwork is everything in the military, which serves me well in my health care career," he says. "Mayo Clinic is very team oriented."

After his military service, Kehren didn't know what his career path would be. He grew up less than 30 minutes from Rochester, and his mother works at Mayo Clinic. "I knew health care offered good career opportunities, and I was good at science in school," says Kehren, who tried his hand being a nurse's aide for two years to make sure health care was right for him. "I enjoyed my time with the patients."

Kehren completed prerequisite courses and then entered the two-year MCSHS Radiography Program, graduating with a bachelor's degree. He then entered the one-year MCSHS Radiation Therapy Program.

"In the Radiography Program, you get to see different imaging modalities, and I really liked radiation therapy," he says. Kehren is eager to be a valuable part of the proton beam therapy team. "The greatest teams in the world have diverse team members. My military experience taught me to be straightforward and calm in high-pressure situations. Respect also is important in the military, so making patients feel welcome and valued is natural for me."

Kehren says he wants to continue his education, getting a master's degree in dosimetry or health care or business administration. "I want to be the best team member I can be and to continue to grow and learn," he says. "I joined the Marines to serve my country. Now I'm focused on serving our patients during the worst time of their lives."





## Oksana Semkiv in 'the land of opportunity'

Oksana Semkiv, RDCS (ECHO '18), sees the U.S. as the land of opportunity.

Semkiv visited the U.S. in 2010 as an exchange student and knew she wanted to build her life here. She moved to New York City alone in 2011 and continued her education. She moved to Arizona several years later, earned an associate's degree at Scottsdale Community College and then enrolled in the MCSHS Echocardiography Program.

"The U.S. represented an opportunity to advance my career and have freedom," says Semkiv. "It was a difficult decision because my family is in the Ukraine, but I wanted to get higher education and have opportunities in a medical field. I worked as a transporter at a hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona, for two years. I got to see every department and the roles medical professionals play. I liked the patient interaction and technology in echocardiography."

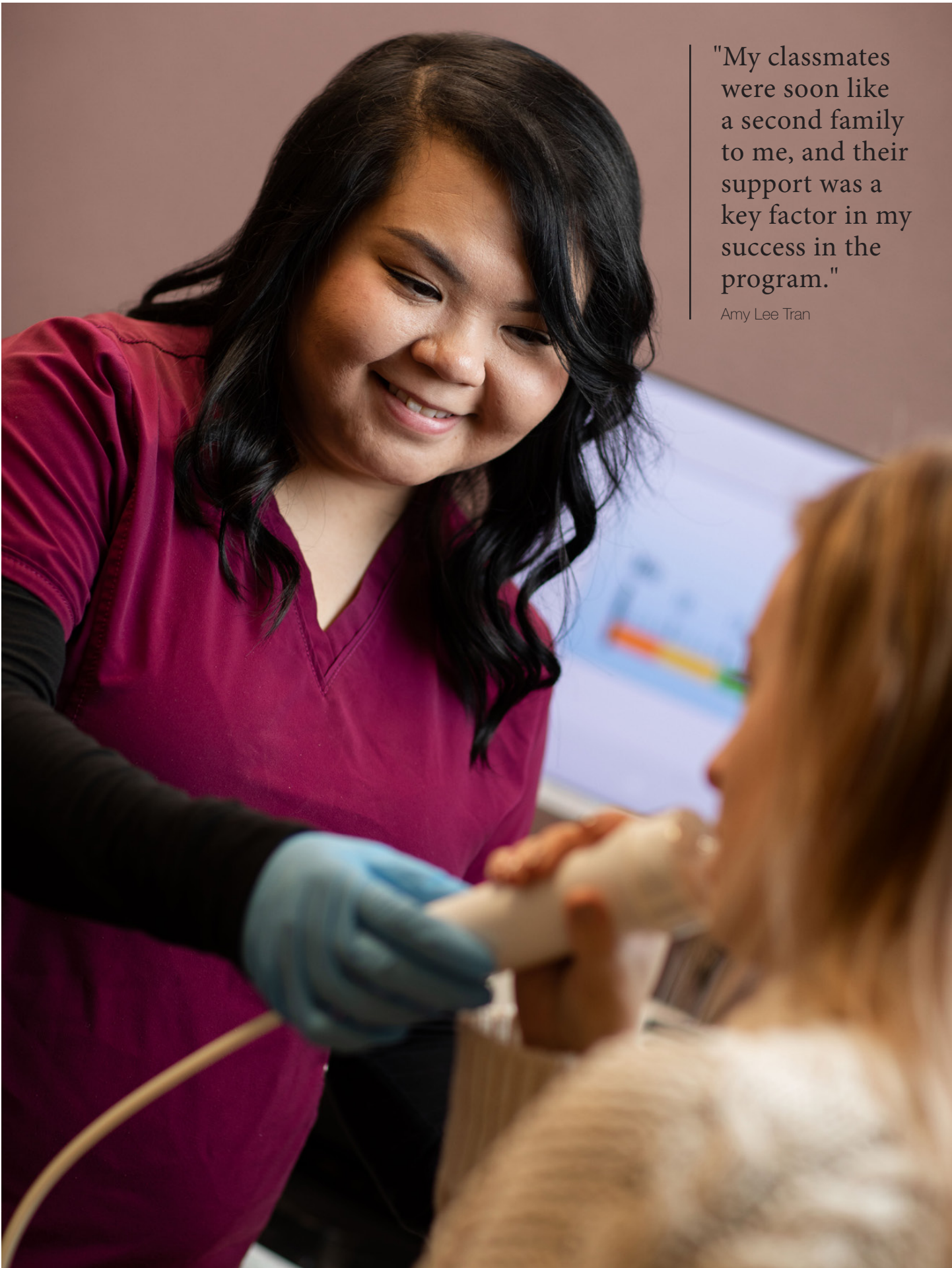
Semkiv not only completed the Echocardiography Program but also was nominated by her classmates as their class representative. She received the 2018 Katanick Scholarship Award from the American Society of Echocardiography

as the highest ranking sonographer candidate. She traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to receive the award.

"My classmates are like my family," says Semkiv. "The first couple of years I was in the U.S., I worked on holidays so I didn't feel as bad about being alone. Now I have a new 'family.' Rochelle Tyler, RDCS, our program's clinical coordinator, was like a mother to me. She was encouraging and supportive. All of my teachers were fantastic. If I needed help, they found time for me. I had a lot of support from day one in the U.S. There are a lot of great people in this country."

Semkiv is now employed in cardiac sonography at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Recognizing the importance of family, she says she tries to treat patients like family. "I try to always be 100 percent present and positive. I'm here to help patients and give my time to them. Patients can sense when you're preoccupied. I absolutely love my job."

Semkiv says staying at Mayo Clinic is a dream come true. "I'm fortunate to have Mayo Clinic in my life and be part of the Mayo culture. It's a wonderful place to start my professional career."



"My classmates were soon like a second family to me, and their support was a key factor in my success in the program."

Amy Lee Tran

## Amy Tran is a natural caretaker

Amy Lee Tran, RRT, LRT (PHLB '12, RTS '18), takes care of everyone — a trait she comes by naturally. She's the youngest of five children and the only one born in the U.S. Her father was an American ally in the Vietnam War and spent seven years in a Communist prison after the war. Her mother went to work in rice fields and as a live-in housekeeper to support the family during that time, with little time to come home. The children were under the care of their grandmother and took care of each other. The family struggled upon arrival in the U.S.

"It was a transition for my family, but it didn't feel as hard as it was in Vietnam," says Tran. "It felt like a blessing to be in Michigan, where we lived and were sponsored by a church. My parents taught us not only to take care of each other but also to help others and be kind."

Tran accompanied her parents, who didn't speak English well at the time, to their medical appointments and translated for them. She says it made her want to be part of health care.

In high school, Tran visited her sister and brother, who had moved to Rochester, Minnesota, to work at Mayo Clinic. Tran and her parents decided to move to Rochester and moved in with her sister.

To earn money while pursuing her education, Tran completed the MCSHS Phlebotomy Technician Certificate Program and began working at Mayo Clinic. She earned an associate's degree at Rochester Community and Technical College and, several years later, enrolled

in the MCSHS Respiratory Care Program, which she recently completed. She was older than her classmates and had already worked at Mayo for five years before starting the Respiratory Care Program. As a result, she called herself the "class mom."

"It's a pretty rigorous program, and many of my classmates didn't have their families in town for support," she says. "I tried to make sure they ate, did well on their homework and were coping well with everyday stresses. My classmates were soon like a second family to me, and their support was a key factor in my success in the program."

"My parents had me late in life and made many sacrifices to take care of me, so now I take care of them. Taking care of others is who I am, whether it's classmates, friends, family, parents or patients."

Caretaking can take a toll. Tran has wrestled with anxiety and turns to meditation to cope. Her father practiced meditation when he was in prison in Vietnam and taught it to his daughter. Tran meditates at home and in the Mayo Clinic Center for the Spirit.

"Meditation gives me peace of mind and control over my emotions," she says. "Afterward, my whole body is relaxed and I can think more clearly."

Being relaxed and centered helps Tran be present for patients. "They can talk to me about anything," she says. "I try to understand how they feel even when they're having a bad day. That's when they need it the most."

## Lisa Brown's journey was a family affair

Lisa M. Brown, APRN, CNM (NMWF '18), says she told her mom at age 5 that she was going to be the head nurse of a baby unit. Brown has been a nurse since 1994 and recently became a certified nurse-midwife after completing the MCSHS Nurse-Midwifery Clinical Rotation.

Brown, a nontraditional student in her 40s with four children, says it's never too late to pursue an advanced degree. "You can still do it. I have another 20 years to practice. I can help a lot of women in that time."

Brown interspersed education with having children — licensed practical nurse degree, her first two children, registered nurse degree, two more children. When the youngest was in kindergarten, Brown went back to school to get her bachelor's degree in nursing followed by a master's degree in nurse-midwifery. She's worked in obstetrics at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minnesota, since 2001, where she's now one of the first two midwives. She and the other midwife have their own patients in a practice with the clinic's obstetrician-gynecologists.

"The community had been asking for midwives," says Brown. "I love nursing but felt there was more to learn and offer. Midwifery emphasizes getting to know and spend time with patients. I've loved babies since I was 5, so this is perfect for me. I love this time in women's lives — helping them learn about pregnancy and their bodies and empowering them. It's an honor to be with them as they go through that process."

Brown's journey to becoming a nurse-midwife was a family affair. She lives in Mankato — 90 miles from Rochester, Minnesota. Her MCSHS nurse-midwife rotation required her to spend 650 hours in Rochester last spring, and she has two school-aged children.

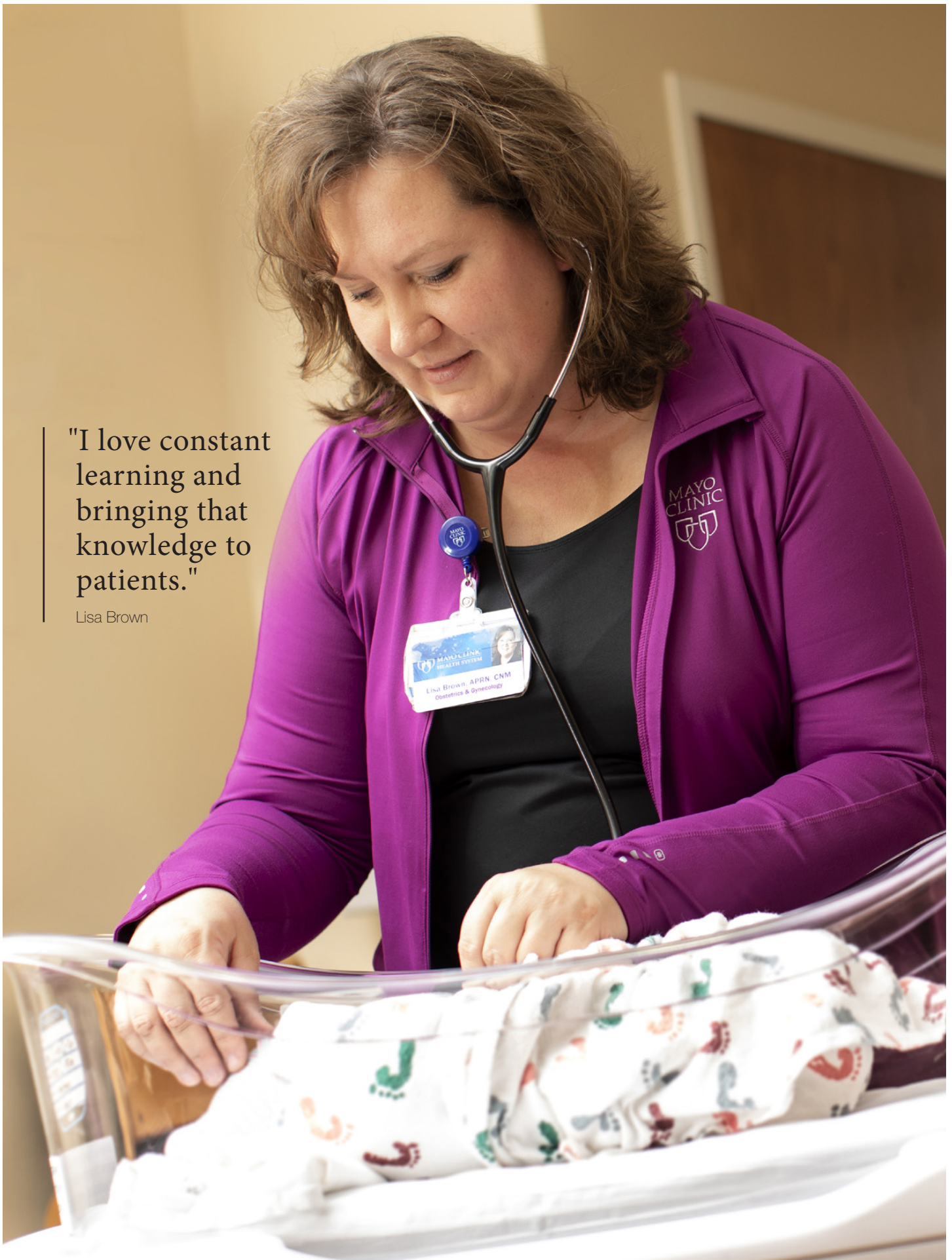
"I was in Rochester full time for four and a half months, so I stayed with my aunt who lives about 30 minutes from Rochester and came home when I could," says Brown. "My mom picked the kids up from school and made dinners. My sisters helped out with the kids, too. My husband happily single-parented. I wasn't working during those months, so we lived on less than what we were used to. Everyone sacrificed toward our common goal. I wouldn't have been able to go back to school without the support and encouragement of my family. When I graduated from the program, we all celebrated. One door closed and another opened — a door to a new path as an advanced practitioner."

Brown says she's not done yet. She hopes to begin work on a doctorate degree in a year or so. That will allow her to teach when she retires from practice one day.

"I wish I'd started the education process earlier so I could practice longer. However, I think having decades of hospital nursing experience and life experience made things a little easier although the program was challenging," she says. "I love constant learning and bringing that knowledge to patients."

"I love constant learning and bringing that knowledge to patients."

Lisa Brown



## Robert Rodriguez, hanging around sports

Unlike most trainees in physical therapy sports medicine residencies, Robert Rodriguez, PT, DPT (PTR '18), isn't a jock or much of an athlete. "I like to be around sports, especially hockey, but I'd rather play guitar and record music than play sports myself," he says.

Rodriguez is the first MCSHS Physical Therapy Sports Residency graduate to go on to a fellowship. Last summer he began a one-year physical therapy sports medicine fellowship at Fairview in Minneapolis, Minnesota, working with University of Minnesota men's and women's hockey teams and the Minnesota Wild NHL team.

"I knew as a junior in high school that I wanted to pursue sports physical therapy," says Rodriguez. "My father is a pediatrician, and my brother and I did rounds with our dad when we were young. I liked seeing how he interacted with patients and made a difference. I had a shoulder injury in high school, which exposed me to physical therapy. It was a good combination of what interests me."

Rodriguez says he was hooked on Mayo Clinic when he shadowed Phillip Orte, PT (PT '78), in college. "Phil is a legend at Mayo Clinic sports medicine. With him I saw the Mayo facilities and resources, and I already knew about the reputation. It was a no-brainer to go with Mayo, especially because my family is in the Twin Cities.

"My experience training at Mayo was awesome — the best career decision I've made. It raised my level of care, competency and confidence. And having Mayo on my resume helped me get my dream job — a fellowship working with college and professional hockey teams. Hopefully, that will lead to employment in a similar position. Those jobs are hard to come by, and Mayo training helped prepare me."







## **Sana Ahmed** finds her dream job ... close to home

Sana Ahmed, PharmD (PHSR '18), qualifies for some firsts. She's the first pharmacist in her large family of many physicians. She was the first in the PGY-2 Pharmacy Residency in Solid Organ Transplant at Mayo Clinic in Florida. And she's the first lung transplant clinical pharmacy specialist at her new job at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, New York. Ahmed also is a first-generation American; both of her parents emigrated to the U.S. from India.

Her interest in health care and transplant specifically stems from her strong family history of heart disease. Ahmed's father had his first heart attack when she was in high school. He has advanced heart failure and is being evaluated for a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) or heart transplant.

Ahmed's first job was a pharmacy intern in her hometown pharmacy. "Our family was very close to our local pharmacist, who always gave my dad advice," she says. "My dad took many medications when I was growing up, and my mom would arrange all the pill bottles on top of the microwave. I wanted to help."

Ahmed's next steps were a bachelor's degree and doctorate in pharmacy, a residency in acute care pharmacy practice in San Diego, California, and a residency in solid organ transplant pharmacy at Mayo Clinic in Florida.

"I wanted to specialize as I progressed," she says. "Transplant patients take many medications for immunosuppression, infection prevention and maintenance of chronic disease states. Every transplant team should have a pharmacy specialist. We work with physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to make the pre- and post-transplant patient experience better by closely following their medications and making dose changes or suggesting alternatives if the patient can't tolerate them well."

In her new position, Ahmed specializes in lung transplantation although she's qualified for other organs' pharmacy needs. "Being part of a multidisciplinary transplant team at an academic medical center is my career goal," she says. "And I'm close to my parents, who also live in New York. I can go to my dad's appointments with him."

Ahmed describes herself as a lifelong learner and says her motto is to learn something new every day. She seems to have learned the importance of family. "My dad is happier having me close to home — it brings up his spirits," she says. "I moved for the job. It just so happens that my dream job is close to home."



"I was in the open heart surgical unit a few times and interacted with the perfusionists. I was intrigued and decided to pursue that profession."

Kaleigh Flowers

## Kaleigh Flowers goes for it

When Kaleigh Flowers (CVPF '18) took tests to enter the U.S. Navy, they showed she had strong mechanical skills. She was assigned to be a machinist's mate, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. She operated the boilers, steam turbines, generators and pumps that supply energy to the ship and provide clean water and lights.

The first time she saw a cardiac perfusion system, which provides cardiopulmonary bypass during open heart surgery, Flowers thought she could probably figure it out. "Perfusion is a big circuit. You open lines or turn on pumps to allow flow to the patient. It's similar to opening valves on a ship to send the steam where it needs to go. Perfusion involves monitoring pressures to make sure they're within normal parameters. 'Building' my pump every morning in the OR is natural for me."

Flowers always thought she'd have a career in health care. Both of her grandmothers were nurses. But after high school, she was uncertain about her direction and decided on the military. Her father spent more than 30 years in the Army. After four years of active duty, visiting 15 countries before age 20, Flowers went to school to learn cardiac sonography and worked at a hospital in Pennsylvania for a year. While there, she was exposed to cardiac perfusion.

"I was in the open heart surgical unit a few times and interacted with the perfusionists," she says. "I was intrigued and decided to pursue education in that profession."

Flowers was one of only eight students accepted to the bachelor's degree cardiac perfusion program at State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University in Syracuse — considered one of the best perfusion schools in the country. Flowers received the 2018 Jeanne Lange Excellence in Professionalism Award there in recognition for exemplifying the consummate cardiovascular perfusion professional. For her cardiovascular perfusionist clinical rotations, she chose MCSHS and spent seven months in Rochester.

After her first rotation of 14 weeks at Mayo, she talked to her fellow perfusion classmates in New York about their rotation experiences. "I learned they weren't getting to do the kinds of things I was doing at Mayo," she says. "My third rotation was at a small hospital in Syracuse, and I got bored because they didn't have the same broad caseload."

Flowers decided to apply for a perfusionist job at Mayo Clinic despite not knowing anyone in town. She was hired and started her new job in June, describing it as a good fit. "I've done the more complex and rare cases. Most of my classmates haven't had that opportunity," she says. "I like the big exciting cases."

When Flowers signed a contract to join the Navy, she didn't even tell her parents. She applied for a highly competitive perfusion school knowing it was a long shot — she didn't have an undergraduate degree at the time. And she moved to Rochester without friends or family in the area. "My motto is to go for it," she says. "If you don't ask, the answer will be no."

## Patrick Wieruszewski's career honors his grandfather

While Patrick Wieruszewski, PharmD, RPh (APPE '16, PHSR '18), was in college, his grandfather died. This event changed Wieruszewski's career trajectory.

Wieruszewski had planned to pursue a Ph.D. in physics when his grandfather, Stefan Styn, died from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in Poland. Wieruszewski is a first-generation American. He spent much of his early childhood in Poland as well as summers after he started school.

"My grandfather lived in a rural area without ready access to quality health care," says Wieruszewski. "Better diagnostic evaluation could have helped identify his devastating lung disease sooner and led to medication or other treatment options such as lung transplantation. After his death, I decided to go into health care so I could help others like him."

Wieruszewski had long been fascinated by how the human body works. "You can introduce something like a medication to the body and change how it functions. It's remarkable," he says. "I had no biology or baseline medical knowledge from my four years of college, but I decided to go to pharmacy school instead of pursuing a Ph.D. in physics."

After pharmacy school in Florida, where his family lived, Wieruszewski moved north for pharmacy residency. "I was nervous about the weather, moving from the beach to the Midwest, but I love it," he says. "Having four seasons is nice, and I knew I'd get the best critical care training at Mayo Clinic."

Mayo Clinic offered something else Wieruszewski was interested in: the

opportunity for a pharmacist to do research. "I like to discover the unknown," he says. Through MCSHS, Wieruszewski completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency and a PGY-2 Pharmacy Residency in Critical Care at Mayo Clinic Hospital. During residency, he published seven peer-reviewed papers.

"Research is a passion of mine, so I'm willing to sacrifice my personal time to do it," says Wieruszewski. "I want to improve quality of life for critically ill patients."

During training, Wieruszewski achieved something no other pharmacy resident has achieved in the 46 years of the program: an academic appointment to instructor in pharmacy in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. "Teaching allows me to give back," says Wieruszewski. "The people who trained me sacrificed a lot to make sure I had good training and set me up for success. I want to make sure others have the same opportunity."


Ultimately, Wieruszewski would like to be an independently funded researcher in pulmonary critical care medicine. He's exploring options at Mayo Clinic such as a master's degree or Ph.D. in clinical translational research. "Currently, pharmacists aren't eligible to apply for the majority of internal Mayo Clinic research awards," he says. "I'd need an additional degree to be able to pursue those."

In the meantime, Wieruszewski is happily employed as a critical care pharmacist at Mayo Clinic, wearing a silver lapel pin every day depicting a pair of lungs to keep his grandfather's life and suffering front and center.



"I want to improve  
quality of life for  
critically ill patients."

Patrick Wieruszewski

A portrait of Christen Waddell, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark green and black striped long-sleeved shirt, sitting on a yellow chair. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow.

Nurse practitioner, Department of Cardiovascular Disease; instructor in medicine; associate program director, MCSHS Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Fellowship, Mayo Clinic Arizona

## Christen Waddell, APRN, DNP, NP (NP '16)

### Education and career path

- MCSHS Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Fellowship, Phoenix, Arizona
- Post Master's Certificate, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Cardiology, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
- Doctorate in Nursing Practice, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York
- Master of Science – Family Nurse Practitioner, Binghamton University
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Employment:** Two years as nurse practitioner at Mayo Clinic; two years as registered nurse in medical ICU, Upstate University Hospital, Syracuse, New York; two years as registered nurse in telemetry unit, Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton, New York

## MCSHS Alumni Association Board members

# Know your Board

### Why did you pursue a career in health care?

I volunteered at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, when I was in high school, and I knew I wanted to work in a similar environment where I could help people. I considered many career options in health care and chose nursing with some encouragement from my father. I'm one of four children, and my parents said one of us had to go into health care to take care of them when they get old. I had an interest, so I assumed that role. It's been the best decision.

### Why did you choose MCSHS?

My first nursing job was in a medical ICU with a mixed bag of diagnoses. I enjoyed cardiology patients the most and thought cardiology was fascinating. I tailored my training toward cardiology and took on any additional training I could find.

I had decided to continue my education and was in a nurse practitioner degree program. I learned about the MCSHS Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Fellowship from an online search. The program looked incredible, and it was Mayo, so I knew I would learn from the best. I emailed the program director right away and asked about ways to make myself a good applicant. The fellowship program takes only two people per year, so I wanted to be the strongest candidate possible. I was honored to be selected to the program. Fast forward a few years, and I'm now the associate program director for the fellowship.

### What valuable lesson have you learned at Mayo Clinic?

This is the first place I've worked where the hospital mission — the needs of the patient come first — is so well known and implemented on a daily basis. It drives everything we do.

I've also learned the importance of lifelong learning. There are so many opportunities for continuing education conferences, which help to keep us informed on the latest science.

### What do you like best about your work?

I like variety. I work primarily in the outpatient setting but also spend around four days a month working in the hospital. Once a week I work in the adult congenital heart disease clinic. I also enjoy educating patients about their cardiac conditions. It's rewarding to explain or draw things in a way that makes sense to them so they're able to be more active and invested in their own care plan.

### How do you contribute to the Alumni Association?

It's important that we stay connected with previous graduates to learn how they're doing so we can continue to improve MCSHS programs. The Alumni Association also is great for networking and making sure everyone knows they're part of the Mayo family.

### What do you do in your free time?

After seven years of school, it's nice to have a bit of free time again. I've filled some of this time with a position teaching graduate nursing students at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. My husband and I enjoy watching Netflix and cooking. I also do cross-stitch.

### What would people be surprised to know about you?

I don't consider myself an athlete anymore, but I grew up playing volleyball year-round for school and competitive leagues and continued to play in recreational leagues throughout college.



## MCSHS Alumni Association Annual Meeting

"From Tolerance to Appreciation: Providing Gender-Affirming Care to Transgender and Gender-Diverse Patients"

Cesar Gonzalez, PhD, LP, Division of Integrated Behavioral Health, Department of Psychiatry & Psychology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, and assistant professor of family medicine and psychology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, will speak about the trajectory of care for transgender and gender-diverse patients and the importance of integrated and interprofessional perspectives to optimize outcomes.

### Friday, April 26, 2019

DoubleTree Hotel | 150 South Broadway | Rochester, Minnesota

5:30 p.m.	Reception
6:15 p.m.	Program
7:15 p.m.	Dinner
8 p.m.	Presentation of MCSHS Recognition of Outstanding Contribution award and installation of new president

The evening is free for MCSHS alumni and a guest. Reserve your spot by April 17, 2019, at [annual2019mcshsaa.eventbrite.com](https://annual2019mcshsaa.eventbrite.com).

Please call hotel by April 3 to reserve rooms in hotel block, 507-281-8000; mention Mayo Alumni to receive \$159 rate.

### **Why did you pursue a career in health care?**

My mom is a nurse, so I grew up interested in health care. However, I trained for 13 years in classical ballet and initially planned to pursue that passion. I ultimately decided to step away from dancing and fully embrace health care and all it has to offer.

I was a certified nursing assistant in college, and I liked caring for patients and making sure they had all of their needs met. I knew it was the right direction for me.

### **Why did you choose MCSHS?**

Knowing I wanted to go into health care but not knowing my exact route, I took a histology course and found that it came naturally and that I really enjoyed it. It's a highly visual field that requires great attention to detail. While I was at St. Cloud State for college, I worked in a histology research lab and really enjoyed what I was doing. Going into the Histology Technician Program after college seemed like an obvious choice for me.

After I completed the program at MCSHS, I worked in the Renal Biopsy Lab at Mayo Clinic as a histotechnologist and then became lab supervisor. I tend to go wherever opportunities take me.

### **What do you like best about your work?**

I enjoy many aspects of my work. I care about the laboratory and producing the best quality work efficiently. As lab supervisor, I get to be part of the bigger picture, help people realize their professional and personal goals, and collaborate across the hospital and clinics. The Renal Biopsy Lab is unique in that we work directly with the renal pathologists, and we are one of only a few renal biopsy labs in the world. Three-quarters of our work is through Mayo Clinic Laboratories, so I also get to work with external clients. Mayo Clinic attracts so many different people, and it's great to experience that every day, whether it's through patients, clients or staff.

### **How do you contribute to the Alumni Association?**

I'm fairly new to the Alumni Association. I got involved because I have a passion for learning and helping people achieve their goals. I hope to get more current and future students engaged.

### **What advice would you give to those starting their careers?**

Always be open to learning new things. Embrace being a lifelong learner, and make deliberate decisions. The only constant in health care is change.

### **What do you do in your spare time?**

I like to get outside and enjoy the sunshine, read and play piano.

### **What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I'm from a small town — Luck, Wisconsin, population of about 1,200. I was in dance class for 13 years and trained in classical pointe ballet, jazz, tap and hip-hop.



## **Are you looking for a way to give back to MCSHS?**

The MCSHS Alumni Association is looking for candidates who are interested in serving on its Board of Directors.

Here's what you need to know:

- You'll help provide direction for Alumni Association programming and activities including serving on committees and work groups.
- You'll attend an annual meeting at Mayo Clinic in Rochester in the spring.

Next steps:

- Complete the nomination form: [mshsalumni.mayo.edu/about/board-of-directors/nominate](https://mshsalumni.mayo.edu/about/board-of-directors/nominate).
- Submit a letter about your interest to [mshsaa@mayo.edu](mailto:mshsaa@mayo.edu).

Call the MCSHS Alumni Association, 507-284-2317, with questions, or contact any board member listed in the back of the magazine.



Supervisor, Renal Biopsy  
Laboratory, Mayo Clinic Rochester

## Grace Jensen, HTL(ASCP) (HT '15)

### Education and career path

- Master of Business Administration, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
- MCSHS Histology Technician Program, Rochester, Minnesota
- Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota

**Employment:** One year as Renal Biopsy Lab supervisor at Mayo Clinic; two years as Renal Biopsy Lab histotechnologist at Mayo Clinic including five months as lead technologist; three years as histotechnician at St. Cloud State University



Physician assistant, Department  
of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck  
Surgery/Audiology, Mayo Clinic  
Arizona

## David Holley, PA-C (PA '16)

### Education and career path

- MCSHS Physician Assistant Fellowship, Otolaryngology
- Master's degree, physician assistant studies, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas
- Bachelor's degree, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

**Employment:** Two years as physician assistant in otolaryngology at Mayo Clinic Arizona



### **Why did you pursue a career in health care?**

I entered college expecting to go into health care. Other areas I considered such as business and accounting didn't seem dynamic enough. In health care, every patient encounter is new and exciting.

I considered veterinary school and medical school. I discovered the PA profession during my senior year of college. The more I looked into it, I discovered how great of a fit it would be. So without hesitation, I applied and fortunately was accepted. I like the lifestyle the profession offers. There is good work-life balance. The idea of work-life balance was really brought to my attention when one of my mentors in college, a retired ENT physician, mentioned he had never made any of his children's piano recitals, basketball games or other important events. This especially struck a chord since it was around the time my first child was born. I now have three kids, ages 6, 3 and 6 months, and couldn't be happier with the balance we've found.

I chose to work in ENT due to my interest in sensory systems and how they allow us to connect to the world and people around us. Working with patients and reconnecting them by addressing hearing, balance and voice complaints is very satisfying.

### **Why did you choose MCSHS?**

Ear, nose and throat disorders are not covered in depth in PA school, so I knew I needed more education and guidance if I wanted to focus in that area of practice. The fellowship at MCSHS fit my needs.

### **What valuable lesson have you learned at Mayo Clinic?**

Dot every i and cross every t. Mayo Clinic is a unique environment. Often our patients have been seen by multiple outside providers and really want answers. Sometimes we can help them; sometimes we can't. But the expectation when they come here is that we will be thorough in our care.

### **What do you like best about your work?**

I like to be hands-on and provide procedural care. I especially enjoy working with the structures of the head and neck.

### **What advice would you give to those starting their careers?**

Address your weaknesses. Be self-aware of where you struggle and lack knowledge, and focus on those areas. Often people focus only on the areas where they're comfortable. However, when a patient walks in the door, it is poor practice to not adequately provide care due to lack of interest or familiarity with the concern. Strengthen your weaknesses so you can be of better service to patients.

### **How do you contribute to the Alumni Association?**

I'm grateful to MCSHS for support during my fellowship and would like to pay it forward. I enjoy meeting with other alumni and gaining insights so I can continue to improve the educational experience we provide to students.

### **What would people be surprised to know about you?**

During college and graduate school, I owned and ran several successful small businesses including a sporting goods store that specialized in paintball supplies, a holiday lights company and a rental property management company.



### **Who deserves an award?**

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for awards. The deadline is Jan. 31, 2019.

**MCSHS Alumni Association Recognition of Outstanding Contribution award** — Honors alumni who excel in one or more of these areas:

- Clinical care
- Research
- Mentoring and education
- Humanitarian endeavors

Learn more, see who past recipients have been and make a nomination: [mshsalumni.mayo.edu/people/awards](https://mshsalumni.mayo.edu/people/awards)

**MCSHS Alumni Association Champion of Allied Health Award** — Honors individuals who meet one or more of these criteria:

- Serve as a role model, mentor and leader in their profession, organization or community
- Support and contribute to interprofessional learning
- Endorse and work toward enhancement of multidisciplinary practice initiatives
- Promote professional growth, autonomy and career development
- Sponsor and facilitate programs or projects that lead to improvements within allied health professions
- Participate in or encourage clinical research among colleagues to promote allied health
- Create and foster a vision for future of allied health professions

**Mayo Clinic  
School of  
Health Sciences**

2018  
graduates

# Audiology – Arizona

Duration: 12-month externship | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 1988

## Program update

Students completed clinical fellowships as part of their doctorate of audiology training and presented research projects at national audiology conferences. Clinical rotations focused on cochlear implants, vestibular testing, hearing aids and diagnostic testing.

## Class notes & employment

Diane Cheek  
Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital  
Tucson, Arizona

Alexandra Snyder  
Mountain Audiology  
Clyde, North Carolina



Diane Cheek, AuD, Sarah Holbert, AuD, CCC-A (AUDX '08, program director), Alexandra Snyder, MS, AuD

# Audiology – Florida

Duration: 12-month externship | Graduating students: 1 | Program started: 2002

## Program update

Courtney Ridley completed the externship as part of her clinical doctorate training in audiology through the University of Florida. Clinical rotations in an adult population included diagnostic audiology, vestibular/balance assessment, comprehensive hearing aid and cochlear implant services, and aural rehabilitation.

## Class notes & employment

Courtney Ridley, AuD  
Tampa Bay Hearing & Balance Center  
Tampa, Florida



Greta Stamper, AuD, PhD (AUDI '09, program director), Courtney Ridley, AuD

# Audiology – Rochester

Duration: 12-month externship | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2005

## Program update

The externship included two students for the first time. They completed rotations in newborn hearing screening, pediatric and adult diagnostic audiology, vestibular/balance assessments, cochlear implant evaluations and programming, and hearing aid evaluations and programming.

## With distinction, students

- Jamie (Brost) Soper received clinical doctorate in audiology from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and:
  - Participated in research project involving clinical utility of vibration-induced nystagmus
  - Presented research posters at American Balance Society and MCSHS Poster Event
- Kelsey Dumanch received clinical doctorate in audiology from University of Iowa and:
  - Was named to American Speech Language Hearing Association Review Committee for Intervention/Rehabilitation for Infants and Children, and American Auditory Association Student Mentoring Committee

- Was involved in research project, “Characterization and Serial Measurement of Ototoxicity in Pediatric Cancer Treatments,” in conjunction with Gayla Poling, PhD, Amulya Nageswara Rao, MBBS, and Matthew Schuelke
- Received NIH Travel Grant for Mentored Student Research Award
- Presented at American Auditory Society National Meeting, Mayo Clinic Young Investigator’s Research Symposium, MCSHS Poster Event and Mayo Clinic Audiology Teleconference
- Co-authored “Introduction to the Audiological Evaluation: A Case-Based Overview” for *Journal of Neurological Surgery Part B: Skull Base* with Gayla Poling, PhD

## Class notes & employment

Kelsey Dumanch, AuD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester

Jamie Soper, AuD  
Covenant Medical Center  
Waterloo, Iowa



Row 1: Kelsey Dumanch, AuD, Jamie Soper, AuD  
Row 2: Cynthia Hogan, PhD (program director), Janalene Jacobson, AuD (medical director)

# Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist – Rochester

Duration: 21-month program | Graduating students: 6 | Program started: 2003

## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Melissa Bemmert  
Caitlin Kappers  
Isaac Kloeckner  
Joshua Mghenyi  
Camille Tully

### Other

Hailey Campbell  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth  
Health, Lutheran Medical Center  
Wheat Ridge, Colorado



Camille Tully, Caitlin Kappers, Isaac Kloeckner, Joshua Mghenyi, Hailey Campbell, Melissa Bemmert



# Child Life – Rochester

Duration: 4-month internship | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 1998

## Program update

The internship meets the requirements for students who wish to become certified child life specialists.

Ashley Narum and Lydia Paradysz are the first interns since the internship was re-introduced this year.

## Class notes & employment

Ashley Narum  
Mayo Clinic Rochester

Lydia Paradysz  
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Lydia Paradysz, Ashley Narum

# Clinical Neurophysiology Technology – Rochester

Duration: 24-month program | Graduating students: 4 | Program started: 1991

## Program update

Students, who graduated on Aug. 8, received a certificate of completion from MCSHS and an Associate of Applied Science degree from Rochester Community and Technical College.

The program's job placement rate is 100 percent.

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Damaris Conley  
Anamarie Marx  
Abdella Mohamed  
Britney Topinka



Jan Buss, R EP T, RNCST (program director), Damaris Conley, Abdella Mohamed, Britney Topinka, Anamarie Marx, Sarah Berini, MD (medical director)

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Sarah Berini, MD, medical director: Excellence in Teaching award
- Walter Kennebeck, R EEG T (CNT '11): Outstanding Technical Mentor award
- Emily Scanlan, R EEG T (CNT '06): Excellence in Curriculum Design and Assessment at fellow level, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

## With distinction, students

- Anamarie Marx: Kathleen Mears Education Scholarship from the ASET Foundation of ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society
- Abdella Mohamed: ASET Foundation tuition grant

# Cytogenetic Technology – Rochester

Duration: 12-week internship | Graduating students: 1 | Program started: 2018

## Program update

The re-established internship is offered in partnership with Northern Michigan University's Diagnostic Genetics Baccalaureate Program. The clinical rotation covers all aspects of cytogenetic testing with a focus on culture and harvest techniques, chromosome analysis, fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), clinical microarray and other cutting-edge molecular cytogenetic processes.

## Class notes & employment

Megan Clees  
Mayo Clinic Rochester



Megan Clees

# Cytotechnology – Rochester

Duration: 12-month program | Graduating students: 5 | Program started: 1977

## Program update

The program awarded certificates on June 22. Students completed a MCSHS internship as part of a four-year degree program or as post-baccalaureate work in cytotechnology.

## With distinction, students

- Andrea Wians: Minnesota Society of Cytology Carol Kanneberg Memorial Merit Scholarship

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Sarah Laska  
Erin Ulrich

Mayo Clinic Health System, Mankato, Minnesota  
Andrea Wians



Row 1: Kara Hansing, MS (CYTO '03, program director), Jessica Woodward, CT(ASCP) (CYTO '14, faculty), Michael Roh, MD, PhD (medical director)  
Row 2: Sarah Laska, Angelina Carney, Andrea Wians, Erin Ulrich, Megan Ford

# Dietetics – Florida

Duration: 8-month internship | Graduating students: 4 | Program started: 2017

## Program update

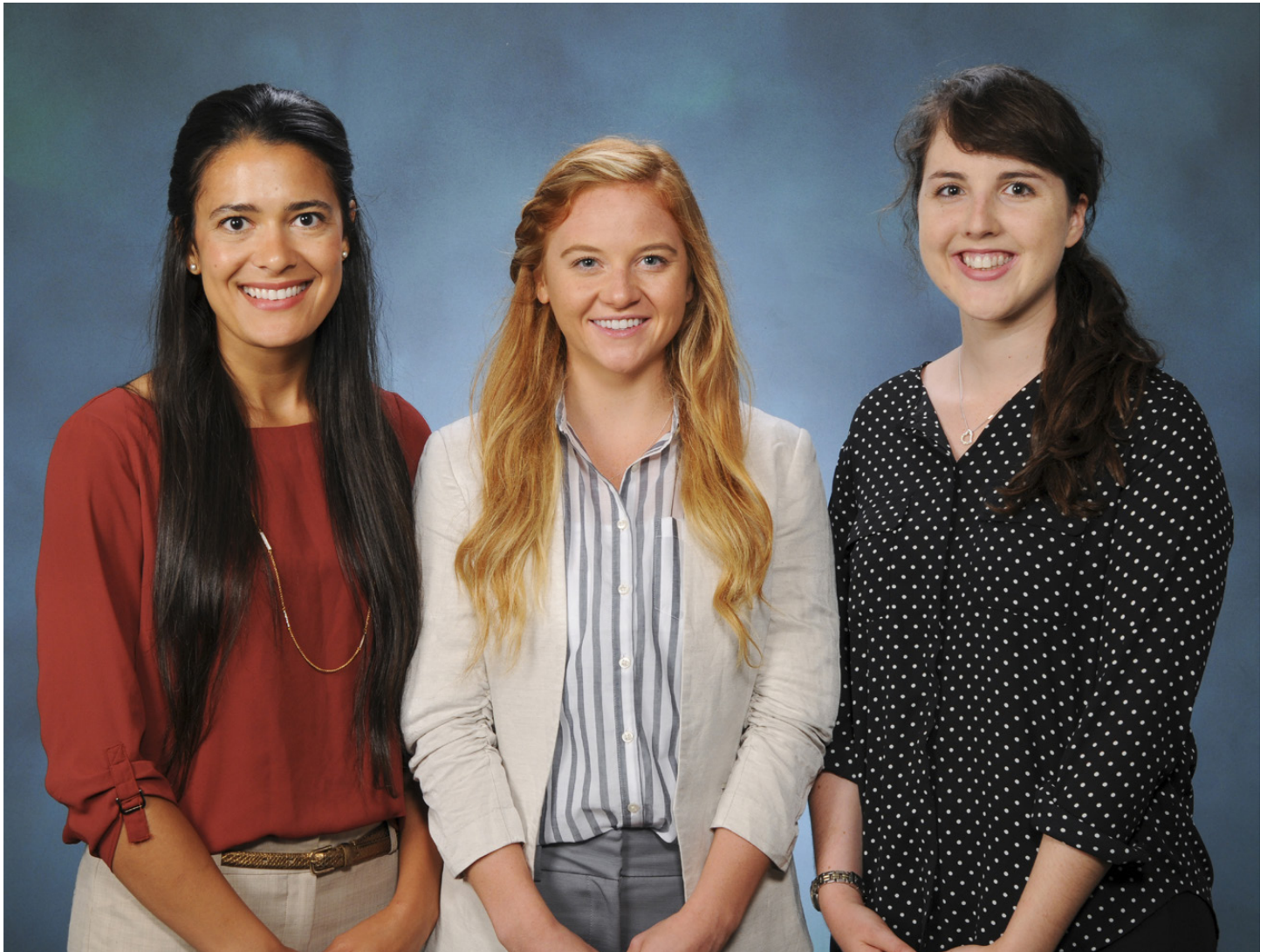
The internship offers supervised experiences in food service management, advanced clinical nutrition, and nutrition for the community. New skills included in the supervised practice are performing nutrition physical assessments and incorporating newly implemented malnutrition guidelines. Interns also conduct a nutrition research project and develop business plans to use in a nutrition practice.

All four graduates have passed the registration exam.

## Class notes & employment

Allison Gregg  
Mayo Clinic Florida

Perri Schellenberg  
Baptist South  
Jacksonville, Florida



Sara Perez, Alexis Desrosiers, Perri Schellenberg  
Not pictured: Allison Gregg

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Sarah Canale, RDN, LD/N: Outstanding Preceptor
- Emily Doyle, RDN, LD/N (DIET '13): Outstanding Preceptor
- Melissa Stewart, RDN, LD/N (DIET '07): Outstanding Preceptor

# Dietetics – Rochester

Duration: 11-month internship | Graduating students: 8 | Program started: 1930

## Program update

The internship was started by Sister Mary Victor Fromm in 1930, making it one of the oldest programs in the country. In 2010 the program was granted continued accreditation for 10 years by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

## Class notes & employment

Kayla Girgen  
Profile by Sanford  
Rochester, Minnesota

Anna Riley  
Sanford Health  
Sheldon, Iowa

Dominique Jones  
University Hospitals Rainbow  
Babies & Children's Hospital  
Cleveland, Ohio

Holly Russell  
University of Minnesota  
Fairview  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Caitlin Atwell, Kourtney Johnson, Anna Riley, Stacy Carlson, Emily Lensing, Dominique Jones, Holly Russell, Kayla Girgen

# Emergency Medicine Paramedic – Rochester

Duration: 20-month program | Graduating students: 14 | Program started: 2013

## Program update

Students received certificates of completion from MCSHS on May 18. Students who hadn't previously attained a college degree graduated with an Associate of Science degree from Rochester Community and Technical College.

## With distinction, students

- Kayla Brotzler: Taryn Budach Award of Inspiration

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- James Kellner, paramedic, Mayo Clinic Medical Transport – Gold Cross Ambulance: Preceptor Award of Excellence
- Joshua A. Smith, paramedic, Mayo Clinic Medical Transport – Gold Cross Ambulance: Preceptor Award of Excellence

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Medical Transport,  
Rochester, Minnesota

Logan C. Anderson  
Kayla Brotzler  
Alexander Catevenis  
Charles Callaghan

Ashleigh Erdmann  
Daniel Patterson  
Lindsey Robinson  
Erica Ryan

Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Kirk Sutton, RN

Other

Cody Kunkel  
Tri-State Ambulance  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

George Moultrie  
St. Paul Fire Department  
St. Paul, Minnesota



Row 1: Alexander Catevenis, Erica Ryan, Lindsey Robinson, Hannah Finne, Ashleigh Erdmann, Kayla Brotzler, George Moultrie

Row 2: Gabriel Camacho, Daniel Patterson, Charles Callaghan, Dustin Koch, Logan C. Anderson, Cody Kunkel

Row 3: Anuradha Luke, MD (medical director), Jeffery Schultz, paramedic (CPAR '19, instructor), Daniel Anger (program director), Dustin Meyer, paramedic (instructor)

Not pictured: Kirk Sutton

# Echocardiography – Rochester and Arizona

Duration: 21-month program | Graduating students: 14 | Program started: 1993/2007

## With distinction, students

- Meghan Lowe, Rochester campus: American Society of Echocardiography 2018 Alan D. Waggoner Sonographer Student Scholarship Award in recognition of outstanding academic and personal accomplishments
- Oksana Semkiv, Arizona campus: American Society of Echocardiography 2018 Katanick Scholarship Award to highest-ranking student sonographer candidate nominated for ASE Foundations scholarship awards (a first for a MCSHS student)

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Christopher Appleton, MD: Physician Recognition Award, Arizona
- S. Allen Luis, MBBS: Physician Recognition Award, Rochester
- Charles Luoma, RDCS (ECHO '10): Clinical Instructor Award, Rochester
- Sean Marsh, RDCS (ECHO '16): Clinical Instructor Award, Arizona



Rochester:

Row 1: Abby Biers, RDCS (ECHO '08, clinical coordinator), Cindy Patrin, Linnea Kretz, Phuong Vy Lai, Dayna Lohman, Alexis Redfield, Sally Miller RDCS (ECHO '03, program director)

Row 2: Daniel Borgeson, MD (medical director), Evan Skroch, Erin Watson, Meghan Lowe, Jodi Lewis, Mikkinzie Peschong, Katie Mancl, RDCS (academic coordinator)



## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Phuong Vy Lai  
Dayna Lohman  
Chera Maarouf  
Cindy Patrin

Mikkinzie Peschong  
Alexis Redfield  
Evan Skroch

### Other

Linnea Kretz  
Virginia Mason Medical Center  
Seattle, Washington

Meghan Lowe  
Fairview Southdale  
Edina, Minnesota

### Mayo Clinic Arizona

Christopher Churan

Oksana Semkiv

Jodi Lewis  
HealthEast  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Maya Samuel  
Honor Health  
Phoenix, Arizona

### Mayo Clinic Health System Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Erin Watson



### Arizona:

Chera Maarouf, Christopher Churan, Maya Samuel, David Pacheco, RDCS (ECHO '03, ACS '17, clinical lead), Rochelle Tyler, RDCS (academic/clinical coordinator), Oksana Semkiv

# Histology Technician – Rochester and Arizona

Duration: 9-month program | Graduating students: 9 | Program started: 2009

## Program update

The program graduated eight students in Minnesota and one in Arizona. Six students were awarded certificates at the May 18 graduation ceremony, and three were awarded certificates on Oct. 3.

Graduates had a 100 percent pass rate on their first attempt on the ASCP Board of Certification exam and an average score well above the national average.



Rochester cohort 1

Row 1: Blake Cappell (faculty), Octavio Anchondo, Michaela Williamson, Lisa Zerby, Kelly N. Klein (RAD '08, HT '10, faculty)  
Row 2: Tien Tran (faculty), Heba Abseh, Anisa Volkart, Xiuyan Zhou, Michelle Nelsen, MS (program director)

## With distinction, faculty

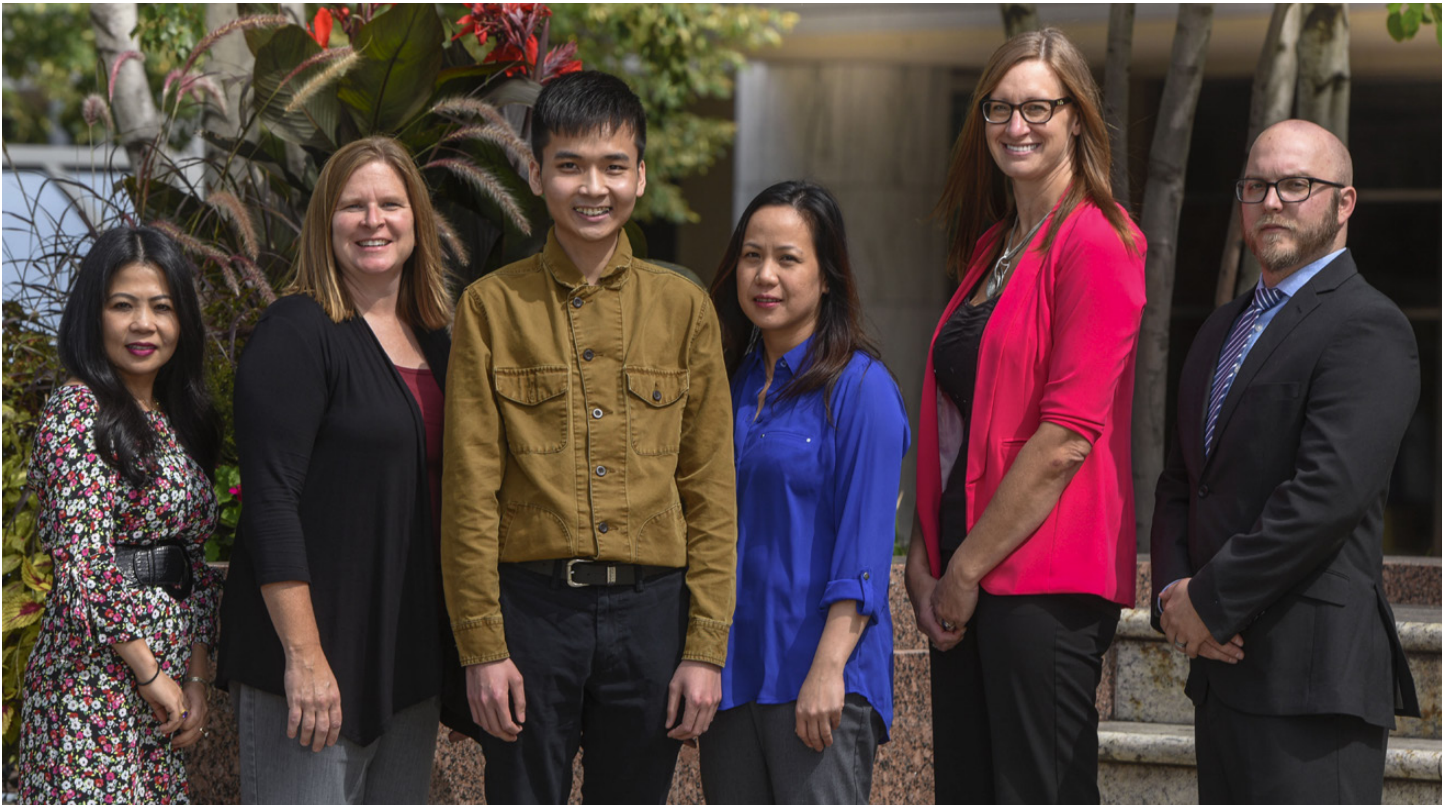
- Jessica Honea, HT(ASCP): Clinical Instructor Award, Arizona
- Denise Hopkins, HTL(ASCP) (HT '09): Enrichment Clinical Instructor Award, Minnesota
- Kelly Swehla, HT(ASCP) (HYT '14): Clinical Instructor Award, Minnesota
- Jason Theis: Enrichment Clinical Instructor Award, Minnesota
- Daniel Tyrrell, HT(ASCP): Clinical Instructor Award, Minnesota

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Heba Abseh  
My Nguyet Huynh  
Renny Tran  
Anisa Volkart  
Lisa Zerby  
Xiuyan Zhou

Mayo Clinic Arizona  
Lara Hall

Other  
Michaela Williamson  
Billings Clinic  
Billings, Montana



Rochester cohort 2  
Tien Tran (faculty), Michelle Nelsen, MS (program director),  
Renny Tran, My Nguyet Huynh, Kelly N. Klein (faculty),  
Blake Cappell (faculty)

Arizona cohort  
Lara Hall, Michelle Nelsen, MS (program director)

# Medical Laboratory Science – Rochester

Duration: 10.5-month program | Graduating students: 24 | Program started: 2008

## Program update

The program continues a strong track record of graduate employment in the profession. Nineteen graduates accepted positions in the Mayo Clinic Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology in Rochester, and five accepted external offers.



Row 1: Holly Knutson, Francesca Scala, Emily DeCheck, Alanna Ladd, Gabrielle McCoy, Brenna Crossley, Rachel Wessel  
Row 2: Paige Solie, Nikiesha Myers, Melissa Mutchler, Alexander Pierce, Liang (Jack) Wu, Michelle Juza, Corbin Herden, Kara Wallace, Kyle Wieseler, Mackenzie Fong  
Row 3: Amanda Madigan, Rachel Olk, Schnyder Coffy, Elizabeth Gamache, Tyler Rademacher, Morgan Riese, Alec McGinn

## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Schnyder Coffy	Nikiesha Myers
Brenna Crossley	Alexander Pierce
Mackenzie Fong	Tyler Rademacher
Elizabeth Gamache	Francesca Scala
Corbin Herden	Paige Solie
Holly Knutson	Kara Wallace
Amanda Madigan	Rachel Wessel
Gabrielle McCoy	Kyle Wieseler
Alec McGinn	Liang (Jack) Wu
Melissa Mutchler	

Mayo Clinic Health System New Prague,  
Minnesota  
Alanna Ladd

### Other

Emily DeCheck  
Aurora West Allis Medical Center  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Michelle Juza  
Seattle Children's Hospital  
Seattle, Washington

Rachel Olk  
Hennepin County Medical Center  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Morgan Riese  
Lakeview Hospital  
Stillwater, Minnesota

# Medical Physics – Arizona

Duration: 24-month residency | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2012

## With distinction, students

- Steve Ellefson and Arielle Uejo: Presented at American Association of Physicists in Medicine national meeting, Nashville, Tennessee
- Current resident Evan Silverstein: Presented at American Association of Physicists in Medicine national meeting

## Class notes & employment

Steve Ellefson  
Northwest Medical Physics Center  
Spokane, Washington

Arielle Uejo  
Karmanos Cancer Institute at McLaren Health Care  
Flint, Michigan



Steven Ellefson, Edward Clouser Jr, MS, TRP(ABR) (program director), Arielle Uejo

\*Arielle Uejo is from Hawaii, and her mother brought leis to the graduation. Leis often are presented as graduates leave school and enter a new stage of life.

# Molecular Genetics Technology – Rochester



Brie Blattner

## N Mich U – Diagnostic Genetics Baccalaureate

Duration: 24-week internship | Graduating students: 1 | Program started: 1999

### Program update

The intern from Northern Michigan University undertook a development project, “Extraction and Quantitation of Cell-Free Mitochondrial DNA from Cerebrospinal Fluid.”

### Class notes & employment

Brie Blattner  
Mayo Clinic Rochester



Tyler Garabedian, Elizabeth Gilliland, Colton Eaton, Joshua Truong

## Texas Tech U – Master of Science, Molecular Pathology

Duration: 8-week internship | Graduating students: 4 | Program started: 2004

### Program update

Students from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, participated in the internship from March 19 to May 9. Subjects and techniques added to the curriculum included RNA extractions, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction and droplet digital PCR.

### Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Colton Eaton  
Elizabeth Gilliland  
Joshua Truong

Other  
Tyler Garabedian  
Cancer Care Alliance  
Seattle, Washington

# Nuclear Medicine Technology – Rochester

Duration: 12-month program | Graduating students: 9 | Program started: 1976

## Program update

Students graduated on Aug. 17, and all passed the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board exam on the first attempt.

## Class notes & employment

Four students are employed at Mayo Clinic or Mayo Clinic Health System campuses, and five are employed elsewhere.

## With distinction, students

- Eight students submitted abstracts to and presented research at Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Eight students submitted research presentations and received SNMMI annual meeting travel awards from SNMMI Technologist Section: Abdullatif Dire, Alyssa Drake, Breanna Guttmacher, Erika Olson, Claire L. Paul, Alyssa Splan, MaKenna Borofka, Andi Wallig
- Breanna Guttmacher, Erika Olson and Alyssa Splan: Paul Cole Scholarship SNMMI Technologist Section
- Breanna Guttmacher: Central Chapter SNMMI Student Excellence Award
- Abdullatif Dire: Day Foundation Scholarship from MCSHS
- Keith O'Leary: Day Foundation Scholarship from MCSHS
- Alyssa Splan: Outstanding Academic Performance for 4.0 cumulative GPA



MaKenna Borofka, Alyssa Drake, Andi Wallig, Claire L. Paul, Keith O'Leary, Abdullatif Dire, Breanna Guttmacher, Erika Olson, Alyssa Splan

# Nurse Anesthesia – Rochester

## Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

Duration: 42-month program | Graduating students: 25 | Program started: 1889

### Program update

The program graduated its first class with Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degrees, having transitioned from a master's degree program.

### With distinction, students

- Sarah Eslait: Gilles, Nelson, Torrance Alumni Award
- Matthew Gehling: Virginia B. Hartridge Achievement Award
- Samuel Marsland: Robert A. E. Devloo Book Award
- Eric Stevenson: Rebecca S. Finley Alumni Award
- Isaac Therneau: Robert R. Johnson Achievement Award

### With distinction, faculty & staff

- Arnoloej Abcejo, MD: Physician Educator Award
- Sean Loughran, APRN, CRNA (NA '13): Nurse Anesthetist Educator Award, Saint Marys campus
- Mary Marienau, PhD, MS, RN (NA '79): Recognized for "Vision and Dedication to Nurse Anesthesia Education," Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
- Peter Owegi, APRN, CRNA: Nurse Anesthetist Educator Award, Rochester Methodist campus
- Jeffrey Pasternak, MD: Special Recognition Award



Row 1: Timothy Romanowski, Matthew Gehling, Thomas Jorgensen, Samuel Marsland, Michael Cianci, John Cambest, Addisalem Bitew, Bailey Dykema  
Row 2: Trista Bureson, Christine Zettles, Manda McNamara, Eric Stevenson, Eric Lee, Elizabeth Cochrane, Jacquelyn Proper, Tiffany J. Brown, Rebekah Westerhouse  
Row 3: Felicia Livermore, Amy Hanson, Sarah Eslait, Joseph Koenig, Isaac Therneau, Justus Onsongo, Elizabeth Connelly, Jennifer Levy



## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Tiffany J. Brown, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Elizabeth Cochrane, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Elizabeth Connelly, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Sarah Eslait, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Matthew Gehling, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Amy Hanson, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Thomas Jorgensen, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Joseph Koenig, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Samuel Marsland, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Justus Onsongo, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Isaac Therneau, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Rebekah Westerhouse, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Christine Zettles, APRN, CRNA, DNAP

### Other

Addisalem Bitew, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
MedStar Washington Hospital Center  
Washington, D.C.

Trista Burleson APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Providence Medical Group  
Spokane, Washington

John Cambest, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Mercy Hospital  
Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Michael Cianci, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Mednax Anesthesia, St. Barnabas Hospital  
Livingston, New Jersey

Bailey Dykema, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
CentraCare Health  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Eric Lee, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Aurora BayCare Medical Center  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Jennifer Levy, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Northern Colorado Anesthesia Professionals  
Fort Collins, Colorado

Felicia Livermore, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Aurora BayCare Medical Center  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Manda McNamara, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Eau Claire Anesthesiologists, LLC  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Jacquelyn Proper, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Olmsted Medical Center  
Rochester, Minnesota

Timothy Romanowski, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Eric Stevenson, APRN, CRNA, DNAP  
U.S. Anesthesia Partners for Swedish Medical Center  
Seattle, Washington

## CRNA Postgraduate Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice – Rochester

Duration: Up to 60-month program |  
Graduating students: 3 | Program started: 2014

## Class notes & employment

All of the CRNA postgraduate graduates are Mayo Clinic in Rochester employees.



Kristin Groves, APRN, CRNA, DNAP,  
Paul Dye, APRN, CRNA, DNAP,  
Robyn Finney, APRN, CRNA, DNAP

# Nurse Practitioner – Rochester

Duration: 12- to 24-month residency | Graduating students: 41 | Program started: 1995

## Program update

Six of the residents who received certificates were based at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Many of the students rotated to Mayo Clinic Health System sites, providing a comprehensive, diverse clinical experience and opportunities for job placements.

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Renee Breland, APRN, CNP, MS, Mayo Clinic in Rochester: Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Award
- Peggy Dunton, APRN, CNP, Mayo Clinic Health System in Faribault, Minnesota: Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Award
- Sally Heusinkvelt, APRN, CNP, assistant program director: MCSHS Outstanding Educator Award



Rochester

Row 1: Claudia Swanton, APRN, CNP, DNP (NP '98, program director), Sally Heusinkvelt, APRN, CNP (assistant program director), Danika Nelson, APRN, CNP (assistant program director), Barbara Timm, APRN, CNP, DNP (NP '99, associate program director) Row 2: Elizabeth Schafer, Mashele Huschka, Paige Harper, Jill Butson, Molly Di Tommaso Row 3: Jenna Burmester, Jade Mikshowsky, Andrea Lima, Sarah Minter, Amanda Knutsen, Kaia Scales Row 4: Linda Fuller, Cassandra Bowe, Katherine Montanari, Melissa Bertelson, Caitlin Hainy Row 5: Rebecca Wuensch, Maria Gaz, Adam Eisenbraun, Angela Clark Row 6: Mary Ellis, Jenny Weyers Row 7: Maria Petersen, Jenifer Bantle-Felt, Katie Schauler, Rebecca Thorston Not pictured: Margaret Bach, Stacy Blank, Matthew H. Clark, Lara Holst, Laurie Larson, Erica Runkle, Bindhu Sankar, Kari Wilson, Becky Zmolek

## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Cassandra Bowe  
 Jill Butson  
 Matthew H. Clark  
 (Nurse Practitioner  
 Hematology Fellowship)  
 Molly Di Tommaso  
 Adam Eisenbraun  
 Linda Fuller  
 Maria Gaz  
 Caitlin Hainy  
 Mashele Huschka  
 Amanda Knutsen  
 Jade Mikshowsky  
 Katherine Montanari  
 Maria Petersen  
 Becky Zmolek

### Mayo Clinic Health System

Waukon, Iowa  
 Linda Fuller  
 Albert Lea and Austin,  
 Minnesota  
 Melissa Bertelson  
 Mary Ellis  
 Sarah Minter  
 Belle Plaine/New Prague,  
 Minnesota  
 Bindhu Sankar  
 Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
 Rachel DeRusha  
 William S. Parsons  
 La Crosse, Wisconsin  
 Jenifer Bantle-Felt  
 Lake Crystal, Minnesota  
 Rebecca Thorston  
 Mankato, Minnesota  
 Margaret Bach  
 Stacy Blank

### Other

Andrea Blegen  
 Western Wisconsin Health  
 Baldwin, Wisconsin  
 Angela Clark  
 Prairie Care Medical Group  
 Rochester, Minnesota  
 Stephanie Cloutier  
 Prevea Health  
 Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
 Paige Harper  
 Rice Lake, Wisconsin  
 Andrea Lima  
 Twin Cities Physicians  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Courtney Mattek  
 Aspirus  
 Antigo, Wisconsin  
 Kaia Scales  
 Twin Cities Physicians  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Elizabeth Schafer  
 Riley Hospital for Children  
 Indianapolis, Indiana



Eau Claire  
 Andrea Blegen, Rachel DeRusha, Courtney Mattek, Stephanie Cloutier, Sarah Strahm, APNP, RN (MBM '12, assistant program director, Eau Claire)  
 Not pictured: Stephanie Cain, William S. Parsons

# Nurse Practitioner – Arizona

Duration: 12-month Cardiology Fellowship | Graduating students: 1 | Program started: 2009

## Program update

The fellowship was awarded reaccreditation with distinction as a Practice Transition Program by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Program alumna Michelle Alland, APRN, MSN, FNP-C (NP '14), is the new program director, replacing Marci Farquhar, CNP, NP, MS, MAN, CCNS, who led the program for nine years. Alumna Christen Waddell, APRN, DNP, NP (NP '16), is the new associate program director.

## With distinction, students

- Susan Schmaltz, APRN, AGACNP-BC: Presented two case study posters for Academic Excellence Day at Mayo Clinic in Arizona — “When One is Not Enough: MitraClips for the Treatment of Progressive Mitral Regurgitation” and “Postpericardiotomy Syndrome Leading to Recurrent Cardiac Tamponade and Cardiac Arrest Post Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement” (received first place in case study poster category)



Michelle Alland, APRN, MSN, FNP-C (program director), Susan Schmaltz, APRN, AGACNP-BC

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Christen Waddell and program faculty member Barbara Novais, APRN, ANP-BC1, MSN: Presented poster on scimitar syndrome at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Annual Update on Pediatric and Congenital Cardiovascular Disease and at Arizona chapter of American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Team Conference
- Christen Waddell: Gave oral presentation on adult congenital heart disease at Arizona chapter of American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Team Conference
- Christen Waddell and Michelle Alland: Presented poster “When Stents Won't Help: Myocardial Infarction with Non-Occlusive Coronary Arteries” at Arizona chapter of American College of Cardiology annual meeting
- Faculty members achieving academic promotion to instructor: Leslie Barnett-Avery, PA-C, MS; Christy Baxter, RDCS (ECHO '06); Eva Boldea, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC; Lisa S. Brown, RDCS (ECHO '11, ACS '17); Michele Gough, APRN, FNP-BC, MSN; Kathryn Lew, APRN, MSN, FNP-C (NP '13); David Pacheco, RDCS (ECHO '03, ACS '17); Christen Waddell, APRN, DNP, NP

# Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Critical Care – Florida

Duration: 12-month fellowship | Graduating students: 1 | Program started: 2017

## Program update

This new fellowship is the first for NPs/PAs on the Florida campus. Michelle Meeder PA-C, the first graduate of the program, completed 10 subspecialty rotations associated with critical care medicine.

## Class notes & employment

Michelle Meeder PA-C  
Mayo Clinic Florida



Joshua Propst, PA-C, PA (PA '11, associate program director),  
Ami Grek, APRN (NP '09, associate program director), Michelle Meeder, PA-C,  
Sarah Peacock, APRN (NP '12, program director), Phillip Lowman, MD (medical director)

# Perioperative Nursing – Arizona

Duration: 4-month fellowship | Graduating students: 5 | Program started: 1999

## Program update

The fellowship provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a career in the operating room.

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Arizona  
Kimberly Darmstadt, RN  
Cynthia Fuentes, RN  
Sarah Osborn, RN, RN-BC  
Kimberly Truon, RN  
Allison Vance, RN



Cynthia Fuentes, RN, Kimberly Darmstadt, RN, Sarah Osborn, RN, RN-BC, Bradley Haase, MS, RN, CNOR (program director), Allison Vance, RN, Kimberly Truong, RN

# Pharmacy – Arizona

Duration: 12-month residency | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2017

## Program update

The PGY1 residency graduated its first residents, who completed original, Institutional Review Board-approved research and presented results at the Pharmacy Residency Conference.

Graduates completed medication-use evaluations, presented continuing education sessions for interdisciplinary staff, served

on committees and developed skills as clinical pharmacists. New for 2018-2019, residents will participate in a longitudinal teaching and learning curriculum for pharmacists who are in postgraduate residency training.



Leila Tehrani, PharmD, RPh, MBA,  
Marina Ivanov, PharmD, Rachel Cramer, PharmD,  
Eric Nelson, RPh (medical director)

## Class notes & employment

Rachel Cramer, PharmD  
Banner University Medical Center  
Phoenix, Arizona

Marina Ivanov, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Arizona



Row 1: Katy Shaver, Sila Shalhoub, Dylan Barth, Kristen Peterson, Julia Shlensky, Hannah Sauer  
Row 2: Bradley Smith, Rachela Bubik, Patrick Wieruszewski, Gabrielle Anderson, Diana Schreier



# Pharmacy – Rochester

Duration: 12-month residency | Graduating students: 11

## Program update

Graduation was June 29, with the commencement address delivered by Lance Oyen, PharmD, RPh (PHRM '98), from the class of 1998.

Many program graduates presented at state or national professional meetings and served leadership roles in and outside of the institution. Graduates also completed quality improvement projects, presented continuing education sessions for interdisciplinary staff, served on committees and developed skills as advanced-level pharmacists.

## With distinction, students

- Hannah Sauer, PharmD: 2018 Minnesota Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP) Outstanding PGY1 Resident Research Award
- Julia Shlensky, PharmD: 2018 MSHP Outstanding PGY2 Resident Research Award
- Bradley Smith, PharmD: 2018 MSHP Outstanding PGY2 Resident Research Award
- Patrick Wieruszewski, PharmD: Chief pharmacy resident for eight Rochester-based postgraduate pharmacy programs; first pharmacy resident to obtain academic rank in Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science during postgraduate training

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Bryce Kayhart, PharmD (PHRM '16): New Preceptor of the Year, 2017-2018
- Lance Oyen, PharmD, RPh: Distinguished Alumnus Award, Department of Pharmacy, Mayo Clinic
- Hemang Yadav, MBBS: Outstanding Service Award
- John Zeuli, PharmD, RPh (PHRM '09): Preceptor of the Year, 2017-2018

## Class notes & employment

### PGY1 (started 1972)

Gabrielle Anderson, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
(PGY2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Residency)

Dylan Barth, PharmD  
University of Kentucky Medical Center  
(PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency)  
Lexington, Kentucky

Rachel Bubik, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
(PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency)

Kristen Peterson, PharmD  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
(PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency)  
New York, New York

Diana Schreier, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
(PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics Residency)

### PGY1 Pediatrics (started 2003)

Hannah Sauer, PharmD  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
(PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency)  
Memphis, Tennessee

### PGY2 Ambulatory Care (started 2016)

Bradley Smith, PharmD  
Grady Health System  
Atlanta, Georgia

### PGY2 Critical Care (started 1996)

Patrick Wieruszewski, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester

### PGY2 Internal Medicine (started 2017)

Julia Shlensky, PharmD  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### PGY2 Oncology (started 2003)

Sila Shalhoub, PharmD  
University of Miami Sylvester  
Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Miami, Florida

### PGY2 Informatics (started 2015)

Katy Shaver, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester

# Pharmacy – Florida

Duration: 12-month residency | Graduating students: 5

## Program update

The Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY-1) Pharmacy Residency offered the ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) Teaching Certificate Program to this resident class.

The PGY-2 Solid Organ Transplant Residency graduated its first resident in July. Matthew Soto-Arenall, PharmD, RPh, is program director.

## With distinction, students

- Sana Ahmed: PGY2 Excellence in Research Award, Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Florida Residency Conference Excellence in Research Awards

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Kevin Epps, PharmD, RPh: Preceptor of the Year



Tiba Al Sagheer, Sana Ahmed, Breanna Lee, Kristina Colmenares, Alicia Patel

## Class notes & employment

### PGY1 (started 2002)

Kristina Colmenares, PharmD  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
(PGY2 Cardiology Pharmacy Residency)  
Nashville, Tennessee

Breanna Lee, PharmD  
Duke University  
(PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency)  
Durham, North Carolina

Alicia Patel, PharmD  
Mayo Clinic Florida  
(PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Pharmacy Residency)

Tiba Al Sagheer, PharmD  
University of Colorado  
(PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency)  
Denver, Colorado

### PGY-2 Solid Organ Transplant (started 2017)

Sana Ahmed, PharmD  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Bronx, New York

# Phlebotomy Technician – Rochester

Duration: 9-week program | Graduating students: 52 | Program started: 2010

## Program update

In 2018, 97.8 percent of students passed the National Healthcareer Association certification exam on the first attempt.

Forty-one of 48 students are employed by Mayo Clinic in Rochester, two are employed by other institutions, and four are continuing their education.

## Class notes & employment

Diane Cheek  
Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital  
Tucson, Arizona

Alexandra Snyder  
Mountain Audiology  
Clyde, North Carolina



Class of Oct. 16-Dec. 22, 2017

Row 1: Isabelle Vitse, Olivia Quinones-Salazar, Noelle Landry, Tabitha Kimani, Jlor Dizon, Abigail Conzemius

Row 2: Lalanía Wiste, Josie Jannings, Kathleen Scruggs, Yusuf Abshir, Morgan Hettinger

Row 3: William Pittner, Jordan Ristau, Josiah Lulf

# Phlebotomy Technician – Rochester



Class of Jan. 2-March 9

Row 1: Ingrid Rodriguez, Jiafang (Daisy) Lin, Mariah Bishop, Kaitlin Suk

Row 2: Zahra Musse, Dawn Henderson, Alexandra Hanson, Meghan Matthiesen, Khadra Abdinur

Not pictured: Misty Schutterle



Class of March 12-May 18

Row 1: Atika Sajjad, Shelby Stewart, Stephanie E. Schaub, Michelle Mitchell, Alexis Anderson, Kelcey Spaeth

Row 2: Brittany Carlson, Rebecca Frokjer, Ann Mertes, Tiffany Gauthier, Mustafa Abdi

Not pictured: Roger Taylor Jr.



Class of May 28-July 27

Row 1: Natalie Noonan, Ashley Golombowski, Savannah Mosier, Tabitha Guenther, Andree Blackburn

Row 2: Hăitao (Sofia) Pan, Jennifer P. Lange, Kory Sandoz, Hassan Musse, Andrew C. Olson, Valisa Teekadharry, Phuong Tran



Class of Aug. 6-Oct. 5:

Irina Anderson, Alexa Gahnz, Jay Puffer, Ekram Abdullahi

# Physical Therapy – Rochester

Duration: 33-month program | Graduating students: 27 | Program started: 1937

## Program update

Students graduated on May 25. This was the 12th year in which graduates were awarded the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. James Youdas, PT, MS, associate professor of physical therapy in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science and a faculty member in the program, gave the keynote address. Kayla Uphoff provided the student address.

The program has graduated 2,610 physical therapy students.

## With distinction, students

- Sarah Bentley: Richard L. Beers Award honoring graduating student who wrote most outstanding scholarly paper
- Brian Gahlon: MN APTA Outstanding Student Award from Minnesota Chapter of American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) honoring graduating student who demonstrates strong academic performance, excellent clinical performance and professional leadership; elected to serve as vice president of APTA Student Assembly
- David Lucas: Outstanding Clinical Performance Award; Gordon J. Branes Award honoring graduating student with outstanding academic achievement in physical therapy curriculum
- Lindsay McDaniels: Erik J. Aasen Award honoring graduating student who best embodies the spirit of Erik Aasen, member of class of 1995

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Connie Bogard, PhD, PT, assistant professor of physical therapy: Earned grant funded by People's Energy Cooperative Operation RoundUp Trust Board to develop fall-prevention programming in association with WellConnect Southeast Minnesota Partnership
- Darren Calley, PT, DScPT, OCS (PT '96), assistant professor of physical therapy: Co-authored publication in *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*
- Beth Cloud-Biebl, PhD, PT, DPT (PT '10), assistant professor of physical therapy: Authored or co-authored publications in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Anatomical Sciences Education*; earned certificate in Anatomy Training Program co-sponsored by American Association of Anatomists and the Anatomical Society (UK)
- Carol Cooper, administrative assistant: Retired after 43-year career with Mayo Clinic — the last 16 in the physical therapy program
- Melissa Hake, PT, DScPT (PT '01), assistant professor of physical therapy: Appointed to core faculty position with program; co-authored publication in *Journal of Acute Care Physical Therapy* (Best Manuscript Award)
- Nathan Hellyer, PhD, PT, assistant professor of physical therapy: Appointed to editorial board of *Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation and Prevention*; served as delegate to APTA House of Delegates
- John Hollman, PhD (PT '94), program director and professor of physical therapy: Appointed to editorial board of *Gait & Posture*; authored or co-authored publications in *Proceedings of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Part P: Journal of Sports Engineering and Technology, Journal of Physical Therapy Education, Physiotherapy Theory & Practice, Neurobiology of Aging, Journal of Sport Rehabilitation and International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy*; served as delegate to APTA House of Delegates
- David Krause, PT, DSc, OCS (PT '84), associate professor of physical medicine & rehabilitation: Authored or co-authored publications in *International Journal of Anatomical Variations, Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine, Proceedings of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Part P: Journal of Sports Engineering and Technology and International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy*; served as delegate to APTA House of Delegates and elected to serve three-year term as Minnesota's chief delegate
- Timothy Madson, MS, PT, OCS (PT '82), assistant professor of physical therapy: Authored publication in *Physiotherapy Theory & Practice*
- Aaron Rindflesch, PhD, PT, NCS (PT '95), assistant professor of physical therapy: Appointed to editorial board of *Journal of Physical Therapy Education* and authored publication in the journal; authored textbook chapter on therapeutic interventions for complete paralysis, "Lifespan Neurorehabilitation: A Patient-Centered Approach"
- James Youdas, PT, MS, associate professor of physical therapy: Authored or co-authored publications in *International Journal of Anatomic Variations, Physiotherapy & Practice and Journal of Sports Rehabilitation*; retired after 42-year career with physical therapy program



Row 1: Samantha Nelson, Heather Carmichael, Jana Raisner, Domenic Fraboni, Tanya Meyer, Katherine Horn  
Row 2: Hannah Baartman, Jacob Anderson, Rachel Rebhan, Megan Lawson, Shanna Britt  
Row 3: Joshua Elliott, Katy Faber, Hannah Christenson, Morgan Olson, Laura Wichman  
Row 4: Tyler Kohnen, Ryan Murphy, Lindsay McDaniels, Sarah Bentley, Leah Raffety  
Row 5: Kayla Uphoff, David Lucas, Brian Gahlon, Taylor McWilliams, Jordan McGowan  
Not pictured: Sarah Guhl

# Physical Therapy – Arizona

Duration: 12-month Geriatrics residency | Graduating students: 1 | Program started: 2012

## Program update

The program received reaccreditation for 10 more years through the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education after a site visit and program review.

Erin Davis, PT, DPT, GCS (PTR '15), is now the primary residency director. Kathryn Brewer, MEd, PT, DPT, GCS, is associate director.

## With distinction, alumni

- Sarah Cooper, PT, DPT (PTR '17), passed board specialty test to be geriatric clinical specialist; is lead physical therapist in Fountain Hills, Arizona

## Class notes & employment

Julie Sigler  
Mayo Clinic Arizona



Kathryn Brewer, MEd, PT, DPT, GCS (program director), Julie Sigler



# Physical Therapy – Rochester

Duration: 12-month Neurologic residency | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2016

## Program update

The second class of residents graduated on July 27, with John Hollman, PhD (PT '94), professor of physical therapy and director of the Physical Therapy Program, providing the keynote address.

All program graduates to date have achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate on the neurology specialty exam.

## With distinction, alumni

- Sarah Yonkovich, PT, DPT, NCS (PT '16, PTR '17): Program mentor; advocated for residency host site at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, Minnesota; received board certification in neurologic physical therapy, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Hannah Von Arb, PT, DPT, NCS (PTR '17): Program mentor; joined residency Admissions Committee; received board certification in neurologic physical therapy, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists

## Class notes & employment

Rachelle Boettcher, PT, DPT  
Virginia Mason Hospital and Medical Center  
Seattle, Washington

Darcy Dalen, PT, DPT  
Mayo Clinic Rochester



Darcy Dalen, PT, DPT, Debra Ness, PT, DSc, NCS (PT '92, program coordinator), Rachelle Boettcher, PT, DPT

# Physical Therapy – Rochester

Duration: 12-month Orthopaedic residency | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2013

## Program update

Residents graduated on July 27, with John Hollman, PhD (PT '94), professor of physical therapy and director of the Physical Therapy Program, providing the keynote address.

All program graduates to date have achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate on the orthopaedic specialty exam.

## With distinction, students

- Residents Donald (DJ) Ciancio, PT, DPT, and Peter Johnson, PT, DPT, and staff member Ryan Buus, PT, DPT, OCS (PT '14, PTR '15): Presented at Minnesota Physical Therapy Association 2018 annual conference on “Pain Neuroscience Education in Managing Persistent Pain”

## With Distinction, alumni

- Rebecca Gusmer, PT, DPT, OCS (PTR '17): Presented poster “Team Approach to the Diagnosis and Management of an Adductor Longus Avulsion Injury in a Soccer Athlete” at American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) 2018 Combined Section Meeting; received board certification in orthopedic physical therapy, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties

- Joel Narveson, PT, DPT, OCS (PTI '15, PTR '16): Enrolled in Evidence in Motion Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship program in Omaha, Nebraska; taught eight-hour course on neurodynamics of upper quarter at Creighton University, Omaha
- Adam Squires, PT, DPT, OCS (PT '16, PTR '17): Received board certification in orthopaedic physical therapy, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties

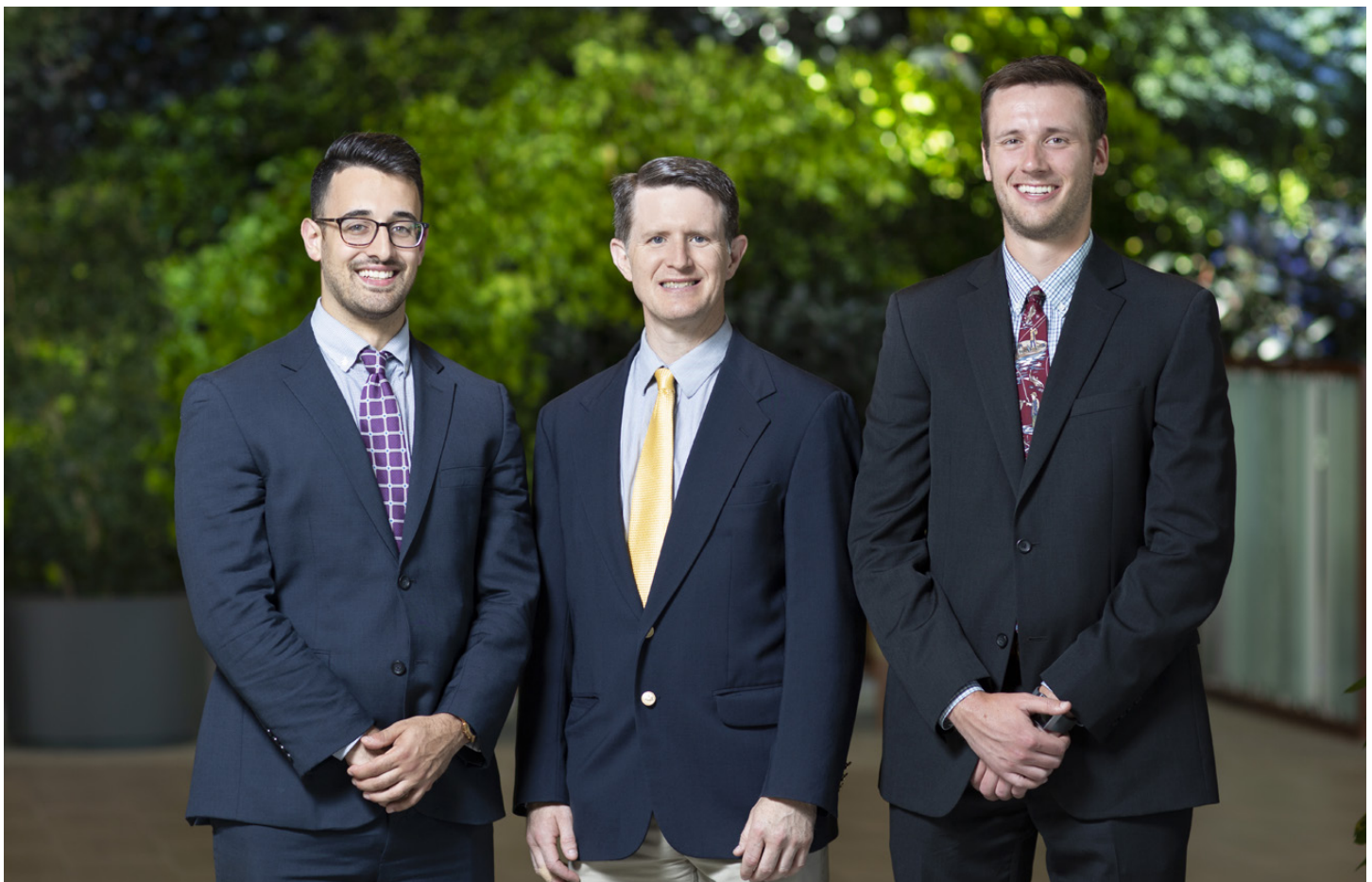
## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Ryan Buus, PT, DPT, OCS (PT '14, PTR '15): Musculoskeletal clinical lead, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mayo Clinic in Rochester
- Aaron Hellem, PT, DPT, SCS (PT '13, PTR '14): Presented poster “Diagnosis and Management of Refractive Ulnar Neuropathy at the Elbow in a High School Baseball Pitcher” at APTA 2018 Combined Section Meeting; obtained academic rank of instructor, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

## Class notes & employment

Donald (DJ) Ciancio, PT, DPT  
TRIA Orthopedics  
Woodbury, Minnesota

Peter Johnson, PT, DPT  
Mayo Clinic Rochester



Donald (DJ) Ciancio, PT, DPT, Darren Calley, PT, DScPT, OCS (PT '96, program coordinator and director), Peter Johnson, PT, DPT

# Physical Therapy – Rochester

Duration: 12-month Sports residency | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2016

## Program update

The second class of residents graduated on July 27, with John Hollman, PhD (PT '94), professor of physical therapy and director of the Physical Therapy Program, providing the keynote address.

All program graduates to date have achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate on the sports specialty exam.

## With distinction, students

- Robert Rodriguez, PT, DPT, and Owen Runion, PT, DPT: Presented at 16th Annual ACL Workshop at Mayo Clinic Square in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Owen Runion, PT, DPT, and staff member Paul Yerhot, PT, DPT, SCS: Presented at Minnesota Physical Therapy Association annual conference, "The Tissue to the Team: What is the Evidence for Over vs. Underdosing?"

## With distinction, alumni

- Anthony Thompson, PT, DPT, SCS (PT '15, PTR '17) Clinical lead, golf program at Divine Savior in Portage, Wisconsin; received board certification in sports physical therapy, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Paul Yerhot, PT, DPT, SCS (PTI '14, PTR '17) Chair, Orthopedic Education Committee for Minnesota Physical Therapy Association; developed performance-based programs in collaboration with EXOS, including monthly education series for nonproviders at Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine; added as faculty to MCSHS Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy programs and to Sports Education Committee at Mayo Clinic; received board certification in sports physical therapy, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists

## Class notes & employment

Robert Rodriguez, PT, DPT  
Fairview Hockey Physical Therapy Fellowship  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Owen Runion, PT, DPT  
Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Robert Rodriguez, PT, DPT, Corey Kunzer, PT, DPT, SCS (program coordinator), Owen Runion, PT, DPT

# Physician Assistant – Rochester

Duration: 24-month program | Graduating students: 19 | Program started: 1995

## Program update

All students graduated and passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam. This was the 21st consecutive year that every graduating student passed the national PA exam.

The program is a collaboration among MCSHS, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Gundersen La Crosse Hospital. Beginning in 2019, Marshfield Clinic will become a partner, and the program will grow to include 24 students.

## Class notes & employment

Diane Cheek  
Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital  
Tucson, Arizona

Alexandra Snyder  
Mountain Audiology  
Clyde, North Carolina



Row 1: Kasmier Wawrzaszek, Maureen Hansen, Emma Johnson, Morgan Lange, Casey Mitchell, Chelsea Komarek, Tova Lyng, Brittany Zinnel, Kyle Moore  
Row 2: Indy Spindler, Emilia Lewis, Amanda Janczak, Jessica DeBruyne, Elizabeth Emmerich, Jennifer Fassbinder, Erin Leisen, Jessica Zell, Alexander McLimans, Laura Thiel

# Physician Assistant – Arizona

Duration: 12-month fellowship in Hospital Internal Medicine | Graduating students: 3 | Program started: 2007

## Program update

Fellows presented posters at either Academic Excellence Day at Mayo Clinic in Arizona or at the American Academy of Physician Assistants National Conference.

## Class notes & employment

Jocelyn Anderson, PA-C  
Renown Cardiology  
Reno, Nevada

Kelly King, PA-C  
University of Colorado Hospital  
Denver, Colorado

Stephen McMahan, PA-C  
Mayo Clinic Arizona



Jocelyn Anderson, Stephen McMahan, Amber Brooks-Gumbert, PA-C (PA '05, program director), Jennifer S. Palermo, PA-C (PA '07, HIM '08, associate program director)  
Not pictured: Kelly King

# Physician Assistant – Arizona

Duration: 12-month fellowship in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2005

## Program update

MCSHS offers the only accredited postgraduate program for physician assistants specializing in otolaryngology and head and neck surgery. Fellows rotate through 12 subspecialty areas.

## Class notes & employment

Morgan Granchelli, PA-C  
Mayo Clinic Rochester

Hannah Huan, PA-C  
Maricopa Medical Center  
Phoenix, Arizona



Carlene Donald, PA-C, MS (PA '07, ENT '08, associate program director), Morgan Granchelli, Anthony Mendez, PA-C, MS (PA '08, ENT '09, program director), Hannah Huan

# Radiation Therapy – Rochester

Duration: 12-month program | Graduating students: 5 | Program started: 1980

## Program update

Class members received MCSHS certificates on Aug. 15. All graduates passed the board exam.

The class participated in community service projects during the year, including helping with a National Cancer Survivors Day event that hosted 700 cancer survivors and their families.

## With distinction, students

- Kristen Dezell: Graduated with high distinction for completing program with 3.90 or higher GPA
- Kate Hulshizer: Graduated with high distinction for completing program with 3.90 or higher GPA
- Alexander Kehren: Graduated with high distinction for completing program with 3.90 or higher GPA
- Christi Rohlfling: Graduated with 4.0 GPA

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Sarah McCauley Cutsinger, MS, TRP(ABR), medical physicist: Didactic Faculty Award
- Rachel Rye, RTT (RAD '02, RTT '04), radiation therapist: Clinical Educator Award

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Rochester

Kristen Dezell  
Alexander Kehren  
Christi Rohlfling

Other

Bailey Blake  
Great River Health System  
West Burlington, Iowa

Kate Hulshizer  
Mary Greeley Medical  
Center  
Ames, Iowa



Bailey Blake, Christi Rohlfling, Kate Hulshizer, Alexander Kehren, Kristen Dezell

# Radiography – Rochester

Duration: 24-month program | Graduating students: 14 | Program started: 1982

## Program update

Commencement was May 10, with Jill Tryon, operations coordinator for the program, providing the commencement address.

All members of the class passed the radiologic technician exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

## With distinction, students

- Kadie Fischenrich: Outstanding Clinical Student
- Lynsey Guse: Outstanding Academic Student, Outstanding Student Achievement

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Melissa Stellenberg, RT(R) (RAD '17): Outstanding Clinical Educator
- Julia Thompson RT(R): Outstanding Clinical Educator

## Class notes & employment

Nine students accepted employment in the Mayo Clinic Department of Radiology. Three students are continuing education in radiation therapy programs, and two students are employed outside of Mayo Clinic.



Row 1: Vivian Johnson, Jessica S. Bakke, Mackenzie Maxwell, Lindsey Tracy, Kirsten Wilcox, Lindsay Reim  
Row 2: Kayla Phillips, Emily Sanden, Kadie Fischenrich, Jenna Lenell, Lynsey Guse  
Row 3: Maija Erzar, Lorissa Huebert, Madison Speltz



# Radiography – Arizona

Duration: 17-month internship | Graduating students: 2 | Program started: 2002

## Program update

Students celebrated commencement on May 11. The internship is in affiliation with the Medical Radiography Program at Gateway Community College in Phoenix.

Both students passed the national boards.

## With distinction, students

- Brent Lopez: Graduated Phi Theta Kappa with 3.93 GPA

## Class notes & employment

Mayo Clinic Arizona  
Brent Lopez  
Victor Ramirez



Victor Ramirez, Kerry Knodel, RT(R) (program director), Brent Lopez

# Radiography – Florida

Duration: 24-month program | Graduating students: 9 | Program started: 2000

## Program update

The graduation ceremony was Aug. 24 in Kinne Auditorium. Cheryl Croft gave the keynote address. All graduates passed the certifying exam given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

The program welcomed Shaun Harrell, MEd, RT(R), as program director and Joiel Woods, RT(R), as clinical coordinator.

## With distinction, students

- Andrew Davidson: Award for Radiography Student Excellence

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- LaRissa Adams (RAD '11): Program Directors Award
- Angela R. Howard, RT(R): Outstanding Clinical Educator Award
- Stan Olejniczak, MS, RT(R): Leaving a Legacy Award for nine years as program director



Row 1: Joiel Woods, RT(R) (RAD '10, clinical coordinator), Shaun Harrell, MEd, RT(R) (program director), Hillary Garner, MD (medical adviser), Stanley Olejniczak, MS, RT(R) (outgoing program director), LaRissa Adams (outgoing clinical coordinator)  
Row 2: Alexis Herren, Summer Wade, Melody Denton, Elyse Hughes, Andrew Davidson, Elisabeth Juhan, Destiny Baker, Leslie Fiset, Morgan (Kaley) Reinschmidt

## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Florida

Andrew Davidson  
Leslie Fiset  
(Vascular Interventional  
Radiologic Technology  
Internship Program)

Alexis Herren  
Elyse Hughes  
Elisabeth Juhan

### Other

Melody Denton  
Orange Park  
Medical Center  
Jacksonville, Florida

Summer Wade  
Wolfson Children's Hospital/  
Baptist Medical Center  
Jacksonville, Florida

# Respiratory Care – Rochester

Duration: 21-month program | Graduating students: 10 | Program started: 1973

## Program update

Graduates received Bachelor of Science in Health Professional degrees on May 12 in the University of Minnesota Rochester commencement ceremony.

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- William LeTourneau II, RRT: Presented education and demonstration session on AVAPS/ASV/high flow oxygen at American Thoracic Society conference

## With distinction, students

- Midhat Mujic: UMR BSHP Patient Care Award
- Abby Schramel: Graduated with high distinction, achieving a 3.9 or higher GPA; collaborated on poster with William LeTourneau (faculty), who presented the poster at American Thoracic Society conference
- Matthew Spiten: Allina Leadership Scholarship
- Sputum Bowl team competed at AARC International Congress in Las Vegas in December



Row 1: Jacklyn Lehman, Nicole Lenort, Amy Lee Tran, Michelle Czech, Mohammad Battah  
Row 2: Anna Marie Spartz, RRT (clinical coordinator), Midhat Mujic, Abby Schramel, Madeline Herman, Ahmed A. Ali, Mindy Eickhoff, RRT, LRT (clinical lead)  
Row 3: Vanessa King, RRT (program director), Matthew Spiten, William LeTourneau II, RRT (faculty)

## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Ahmed A. Ali  
Madeline Herman  
Nicole Lenort  
Midhat Mujic  
Abby Schramel  
Matthew Spiten  
Amy Lee Tran

### Other

Mohammad Battah  
Children's Minnesota  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

Michelle Czech  
Region's Hospital  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Jacklyn Lehman  
Children's Minnesota  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

# Sonography – Rochester and Florida

Duration: 21-month program | Graduating students: 10 | Program started: 1990

## Program update

The graduation ceremony was May 14 in Rochester with live video connection to the Florida campus.

## With distinction, students

- Nadia Chupka: Outstanding Student Achievement Award



Rochester  
Row 1: Laura Schmalz, RVT, RDMS (clinical coordinator), Nadia Chupka, Lindsay Hollebrands, Jennifer Nankivil, Jenna Henriksen, Rebecca Madery, MEd, RVT, RDMS (academic coordinator)  
Row 2: Douglas Brown, MD (medical director), Ashley Stangler, Bradley J. Kruger, Jacy Saterbak, Nicole Capra, Diane Youngs (program director)

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Outstanding Clinical Educator awards: Kristin Lowery, RDMS (SONO '15), Jolien Mattison, Adam Peterson, RVT, RDMS (SONO '12), Kathleen Praska, RDMS, Dean Wille, RVT, RDMS (RAD '89)

## Class notes & employment

Seven of the 10 graduates accepted employment in the Department of Radiology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and one at Mayo Clinic in Florida. Two graduates were hired outside of Mayo Clinic.



Florida  
Veronika Stanley, Francis St George, RDMS, PVT (clinical coordinator), Caroline Dance

# Surgical First Assistant – Rochester

Duration: 21-month program | Graduating students: 13 | Program started: 2012

## Program update

Commencement was Aug. 10, with Nicole Kochan delivering the student address and program director Sarah Penkava, MSN, RN, providing the commencement address. The event included guest speakers from the National Surgical Assistants Association and National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants.

The class had a 100 percent passing rate for the Certified Surgical Assistant exam and a 100 percent job hire rate for the sixth consecutive year. The class of 2018 also won the MCSHS Blood Drive Challenge for the third consecutive year.

## With distinction, students

- Students who wrote publications: Alexis Chapman, Abbagail Drew, Amanda Grove, Susanna Harbach, Alyssa Jensen, Abigail Kershaw, Nicole Kochan, Jessa McAvoy, Lauren McKenzie, Hassan Mohamed, Luis Quirindongo-Cedeno, Alyson Shellhammer, Anthony Svendsen

## With distinction, faculty & staff

- Stephen Baier, CSA: Outstanding preceptor
- Branden Baugh, CSA: Outstanding preceptor



Row 1: Cassandra Broadwater, CSA (ST '07, instructor), Luis Quirindongo -Cedeno, Abbagail Drew, Abigail Kershaw, Susanna Harbach, Alyson Shellhammer, Hassan Mohamed, Helga Olson, CSA (instructor)  
Row 2: Tracy Auns (administrative assistant), Nicole Kochan, Alexis Chapman, Lauren McKenzie, Anthony Svendsen, Alyssa Jensen, Jessa McAvoy, Amanda Grove, Sarah Penkava, MSN, RN (program director)

## Class notes & employment

### Mayo Clinic Rochester

Alexis Chapman  
Abbagail Drew  
Amanda Grove  
Susanna Harbach  
Alyssa Jensen  
Abigail Kershaw

Jessa McAvoy  
Lauren McKenzie  
Hassan Mohamed  
Luis Quirindongo-Cedeno  
Anthony Svendsen

### Other

Nicole Kochan  
Marshfield Medical Center  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Alyson Shellhammer  
Bon Secours DePaul  
Medical Center  
Norfolk, Virginia



Gianrico Farrugia, M.D.

## Transition in Mayo Clinic leadership

John Noseworthy, M.D., stepped down as Mayo Clinic president and CEO at the end of the year after serving in this role for nine years. The Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences Alumni Association is grateful to Dr. Noseworthy for his stalwart leadership, and we wish him well in the next phase of his life.

Gianrico Farrugia, M.D., succeeds Dr. Noseworthy as president and CEO. Dr. Farrugia has served as a Mayo Clinic vice president and CEO of Mayo Clinic in Florida since 2015. Under his leadership, Mayo Clinic in Florida has established itself as the destination medical center for the Southeast, with significant investments in people, technology and expansion, including the newly opened 190,000-square-foot Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Building on the Mayo Clinic Florida campus for patients seeking cancer, neurology and neurosurgical care. In 2017 Mayo Clinic was named the best hospital in Florida in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual list of hospitals.

Before serving as CEO of Mayo Clinic in Florida, Dr. Farrugia was director of the Mayo Clinic Center for Individualized Medicine, which is responsible for bringing genomics into routine clinical care, and co-founder of the Center for Innovation at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Farrugia has spent 30 years as a Mayo physician.

Gianrico Farrugia, M.D.

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology,  
Department of Medicine

Department of Physiology and Biomedical Engineering

Professor of medicine and physiology, Mayo Clinic College of  
Medicine and Science

Faculty member, biomedical engineering, Mayo Clinic  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Fellowship: Gastroenterology, Mayo Clinic School of  
Graduate Medical Education

Residency: Internal medicine, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate  
Medical Education

Medical degree: University of Malta Medical School

Undergraduate degree: St. Aloysius College, Birkirkara, Malta

Native of: Malta

# News briefs



## Students participate in career exploratory programs

MCSHS hosted its third weeklong Career Immersion Program in the summer in Rochester. Forty diverse Minnesota high school sophomores and juniors participated in observation and hands-on activities during rotations through various health care careers. MCSHS program directors and faculty assisted students in mapping out their health care careers in plans they can implement upon their return to school.

Students are selected for the competitive program based on academic achievement, an essay, a letter of recommendation and an interview.

On the Florida campus, high school and college students participated in exploratory programs:

- **Medical Laboratory Science Career Immersion Program:** Twelve diverse local high school sophomores and juniors took part in observation and hands-on activities for four days to learn about career possibilities in medical laboratory science. This was a first on the Florida campus.
- **Clinical Research Internship Study Program (CRISP):** Sixty-seven promising college students participated for 10 weeks and were paired with research teams led by Mayo Clinic physicians to assist with and gain experience in clinical research. Since its 2008 inception, CRISP has had more than 400 students.



## Growth on Mayo Clinic campuses

Changes are underway at Mayo Clinic campuses, including expansion of the Gonda Building on the Rochester campus, a new investment of \$144 million for two major capital projects to be constructed on the Florida campus, and a \$648 million expansion that will almost double the size of the Phoenix campus in the next five years.

### Gonda Building expansion in Rochester

- Gonda Building — 11-floor expansion including four floors for clinical space and seven floors for a premier hotel space; the new clinical space expands Mayo Clinic Cancer Center and Outpatient Procedure Center. Expected completion: 2022

### Florida projects

- Mayo North addition — Five-story building with two-story building link between Mayo and Cannaday buildings; space for eight operating rooms and procedural space for cardiology, gastroenterology and hepatology, and other departments. Expected completion: 2021
- Patient parking garage — 1,000-space garage adjacent to Cannaday Building;

two-story connector building with space for retail and other use. Expected completion: 2020

### Arizona projects

The project will add 1.4 million square feet of building space with expanded clinical capacity, support services and infrastructure at the campus located near Loop 101 and 56th Street in North Phoenix. Expected completion: 2020-2023

- Six-story patient tower with new patient rooms, clinical and rehab space, and outpatient surgical center
- Three-floor addition to existing four-story Mayo Clinic Building for clinical services
- Three-story building to house expanded emergency, laboratory medicine, radiology and pharmacy
- Central plant building to support additional building square footage
- 1,000 space underground patient parking garage
- 1,600-space multilevel staff parking garage



## Darcy Erickson receives Mayo Clinic Mae Berry Service Excellence Award

Darcy Erickson, OT, MAOL, ATP (OT '01), a supervisor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, received a Mae Berry Service Excellence Award. Erickson was nominated for taking on many jobs within her role, including countless hours spent with the Plummer Project and quality projects that benefit staff and patients.

“Darcy challenged herself to receive degrees in occupational therapy and organizational leadership. She has a deep understanding of how injury impacts someone on a day-to-day-basis,” said a nominator.

Erickson is an instructor in physical medicine and rehabilitation in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.



## MCSHS program and faculty updates

- Adrijana Anderson, PAC (PA '15), physician assistant, Department of Critical Care Medicine, is the new program director for the Physician Assistant Fellowship in Hospital Internal Medicine in Arizona. She is an instructor in medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Kyle Burkhamer, PA-C (PA '12), is a new assistant program director for the NPPA Emergency Medicine Fellowship in Rochester. He is an instructor in emergency medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Erin Davis, PT, DPT, GCS (PTR '15), physical therapist, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, is the new program director for the Physical Therapy Geriatrics Residency in Arizona. She is an instructor in physical therapy in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Debra Eagle was named to the new role of vice chair of Education Administration. The vice chair collaborates with Education physician, scientist and administration leaders throughout Mayo Clinic to help transform Mayo's mission and Education's vision into daily operations.
- Emily Ehlers is the new education administration coordinator supporting Student and Faculty Affairs of MCSHS in Rochester.
- Barrett Fellows, PA-C, MS, is the new assistant program director for the NPPA Fellowship in Critical Care in Rochester. He is an instructor in surgery in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Samantha Ghazanfari RVT, RDMS (SONO '13), Division of Operations, is the new program director for the Sonography Program in Florida.
- Jill Gruenwald, AuD, is the new associate program director for the Audiology Program in Rochester.
- Randy Gruhlke, MS, is the new program director for the Phlebotomy Technician Program in Rochester. He is an instructor in laboratory medicine and pathology in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Ashley Hunzeker, CMD, Department of Radiation Oncology, is the new co-program director for the Medical Dosimetry Program in Rochester.
- Carol Iverson is the new program director for the Health Information Technology Internship in Arizona.
- Louise Johnson, HT(ASCP), is the new assistant program director for the Histology Technician Program in Florida. She is an instructor in laboratory medicine and pathology in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- S. Allen Luis, MBBS, Division of Cardiovascular Ultrasound, is the new medical director for the Echocardiography Program in Rochester. He is an assistant professor of medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Julia McCurry, RHIA, is the new program director for the Health Information Management Internship in Florida.
- Dustin Meyer is the new program director for the Emergency Paramedic Program in Rochester. He is an instructor in emergency medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Jennifer Rodemeyer, MA, CCLS, is the new program director for the Child Life Program in Rochester.
- Kylee Row, APRN, CNP, MSN (NPPA '17), is a new assistant program director for the NPPA Emergency Medicine Fellowship in Rochester.
- Nicole Schaub is now an operations specialist in MCSHS. She joined the MCSHS team in 2014 as education administration coordinator.
- Matthew Ugorowski, CNMT, is the new program director for the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program in Rochester.
- Wendaline VanBuren, MD, Department of Radiology, is the new medical director for the Sonography Program in Rochester. She is an assistant professor of radiology in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.
- Rebekah Yataco, DPT, education specialist, Rehabilitation Services, is the new program director for the Occupational and Physical Therapy Internship in Florida. She is an instructor in physical therapy in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.

## Awards



Sana Ahmed, PharmD, RPh (PHSR '18), a recent pharmacy residency graduate at Mayo Clinic in Florida, received the PGY2 Excellence in Research Award at the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Florida Residency Conference Excellence in Research Awards.



Kara Hansing, MS (CYTO '03), supervisor of the MCSHS Cytotechnology Program in Rochester and director of education for the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, was one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) 40 Under Forty, which recognizes the brightest emerging leaders and innovators of pathology, laboratory medicine, and the ASCP. Hansing is an instructor in laboratory medicine and pathology in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.

## Obituaries

Michael Dashnaw, CRNA (NA '58), died Feb. 28, 2014.

Harold Egli, PT (PT '53), died January 2018.

# Connections

*Connections* is published three times a year and mailed free of charge to alumni, students and friends of Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences (MCSHS).

Send comments, story ideas, academic and career news, and address changes to [mshsaa@mayo.edu](mailto:mshsaa@mayo.edu), or call 507-284-2317.

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## About MCSHS

Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences has a distinguished history of preparing students for successful careers in the health sciences. Mayo Clinic has trained allied health professionals for more than 100 years. Almost 1,700 students are enrolled in more than 128 MCSHS programs and rotations representing more than 68 health sciences careers. Programs are available at Mayo Clinic campuses in Arizona, Florida and Minnesota.

## Enrollment information

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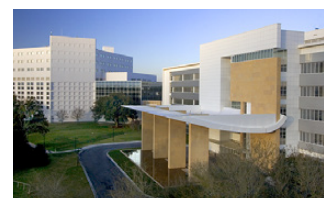
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