

Current Fellows

Dr. Melinda A. Chen received her MD from Drew University of California in 2003. She is currently working on a cross-sectional observational study to understand the patient care that primary care physicians perform outside of office visits and physicians' perceptions of the extent that these activities may substitute for visits and be performed by support staff. We anticipate that Dr. Chen will successfully complete the fellowship on June 30th, 2010.

Dr. Jennifer Downs received her MD from Weill Cornell Medical College in 2004. She is currently working on a project to determine the prevalence and optimal diagnostic and treatment methods for schistosomiasis, which is a tropical parasitic infection acquired via contact with infected fresh water, endemic throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa. Her work focuses specifically on female urogenital schistosomiasis (FUS), a form of the infection in which schistosomal eggs damage the female genital tract (typically the cervix), where they cause ulceration and bleeding. We anticipate that Dr. Downs will successfully complete the fellowship on December 31st, 2010.

Dr. Mihir Patel received his MD from the Medical College of Georgia in 2005. He is currently working on a cross-sectional study exploring the knowledge and perceptions regarding cardiovascular disease in a cohort of Bengali (a South Asian subethnic group) patients. The study uses a mixed methods approach and will take place at a federally qualified health center in Queens, New York. From this research, Dr. Patel hopes to develop a culturally appropriate intervention that can address the disproportionate rates of heart disease seen in the Bengali population. We anticipate that Dr. Patel will begin the 2nd year of his fellowship on July 1st, 2010.

Past Fellows Projects

Summary of graduates and their theses: Below is a summary of our graduates, year of graduation, and title of their thesis. Our graduates have interests in diverse topics, including patient-centered outcomes, vulnerable population, minority health, health care disparities, cost-effectiveness analyses, patient education, and patient decision-making. Sample projects among underserved populations include assessing outcomes in sexual assault victims, language barriers in the emergency room, the doctor-patient relationship, racial disparities in treatments for knee osteoarthritis, HIV testing in Latino communities, and adherence to asthma and hypertension medications in minority populations. Education studies have addressed decision-making for peripheral vascular disease and inherited malignancy, as well as testing virtual reality to teach laparoscopy to surgical housestaff. Multiple studies have addressed measuring quality of life in a wide variety of chronic diseases. Studies in children have included effects on resource utilization of new insurance policies, hospitalization for mental health, and use of the neutropenic diet to avoid infection. Through the Program, all these interests were cultivated and brought to fruition with the collaboration of multiple departments throughout the Cornell network.

Aba Barden-Maja, MD MS (1997) (general internist)

Thesis: *Psychosocial Factors and Outcomes of Hip Replacement Surgery*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Ellen L. Brown, EdD MS (1997) (health education nurse)

Thesis: *Predictors of Falls Following Side Rail Reduction in a Nursing Home*

Current Position: Associate Professor of Nursing at Florida International University in Miami

Denis J. Keohane, MD MS (1997) (general internist)

Thesis: *Predictors of Progression of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus to First Opportunistic Infection*

Current Position: Senior Director in the Medical Research Department at Purdue Pharma

Geoffrey C. Quinn, MD MS (1997) (general internist)

Thesis: *Intravenous Drug Users and Nitric Oxide Resistant Strains of TB: Is the Phenomenon Explained by Macrophage-derived Nitric Oxide?*

Current Position: Private Practice in San Francisco, CA

Melanie J. Harrison, MD MS (1998) (rheumatologist)

Thesis: *Continuity of Care: a Large Part of Patient Satisfaction in the Nursing Home*

Current Position: Director of Global Safety Surveillance/Epidemiology at Wyeth Research

Kenneth S. Boockvar, MD MS (1999) (geriatrician)

Thesis: *Development and Validation of an Instrument for Illness Report by Certified Nursing Assistants in Nursing Homes*

Current Position: Associate Professor in the Department of Geriatrics and Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD MS (1999) (general internist)

Thesis: *Determinants of Patient Dissatisfaction with the Doctor-patient Relationship*

Current Position: Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Center for Integrative Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and Director of the Center of Excellence in Disparities Research at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Paulo A. Pacheco, MD MS (1999) (gastroenterologist)

Thesis: *Development and Validation of a Disease-specific Quality of Life Instrument for Chronic Diarrhea*

Current Position: Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at New York University Medical School

Eric J. Sherman, MD MS (2000) (oncologist)

Thesis: *A Prognostic Model to Predict Survival in Patients with Head and Neck Tumors Treated with Larynx Preservation*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania

M. Kathleen Figaro, MD MS (2001) (general internist)

Thesis: *"I Don't Want to be Cut" – Aspects of the Decision for Total Knee Replacement among African Americans that Lead to Disparities*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Medicine at Vanderbilt University

Jordan C. Foster, MD MS (2001) (emergency medicine physician)

Thesis: *Measuring the Impact of a Spanish Language Barrier on the Emergency Diagnosis of Chest Pain*

Current Position: Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Godwin Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD MPH MS (2001) (general internist)

Thesis: *Development and Evaluation of a Medication Adherence Self-Efficacy Scale in Hypertensive African American Patients*

Current Position: Associate Professor of Medicine at New York University

Eric R. Wold, MD MS (2001) (general internist)

Thesis: *The Presentation of Probabilities in a Visually Interactive Computer Program Improves Comprehension and Recall of the Risks and Benefits of Surgery and Angioplasty for Patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease Who are Considering Treatment*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Medicine at New York Medical College

Lilli B. Link, MD MS (2002) (general internist)

Thesis: *Attitude and Action: a Qualitative Study of Cancer Patients' Approach to Their Illness*

Current Position: Associate Research Scientist at the Mailman School of Public Health

Karen Moody, MD MS (2002) (pediatric oncologist)

Thesis: *A Randomized Trial to Compare Infection Rate in Pediatric Cancer Patients: Neutropenic Diet vs. Standard Food Safety Guidelines*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Jocelyn F. Garrick, MD MS (2003) (emergency medicine physician)

Thesis: *Identifying Predictors of Acute Stress Disorder and Depressive Symptoms in Adult Female Victims of Sexual Assault*

Current Position: Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of California

Sung Won Lee, MD MPhil MS (2003) (general internist)

Thesis: *Practice of Energy-yoga and Changes in Health-related Quality of Life*

Current Position: Director of Research at the Ilchi Center for Applied Neuroscience

Erica G. Phillips-Caesar, MD MS (2003) (general internist)

Thesis: *The Impact of Diabetes on Work Productivity: a Cross-sectional Analysis of Employed Patients in a Primary Care Practice*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College

Lawrence A. Melniker, MD MS (2004) (emergency medicine)

Thesis: *Randomized Clinical Trial of Point-of-care, Limited Ultrasonography for Trauma in the Emergency Department*

Current Position: Attending Physician and the Director of Emergency Ultrasonography, Department of Emergency Medicine, New York Methodist Hospital

Stephanie O. Zandieh, MD MS (2004) (pediatrician)

Thesis: *Negative Perceptions of Health Care among Caregivers of Children Assigned to a Medicaid Managed Care Health Plan*

Current Position: Fellow in Pulmonary Medicine at the Children's Hospital in Boston, MA (2008-2009 Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital)

Sam Amirfar, MD MS (2005) (general internist)

Thesis: *Modeling the Impact of a Partially Effective HIV Vaccine on HIV Infection and Death among Women and Infants in South Africa*

Current Position: City Medical Special list in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Joshua D. Lee, MD MS (2005) (general internist)

Thesis: *Attitudes Toward Hepatitis C Prevention and Jail-based Intervention among New York City Substance Users*

Current Position: Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry, New York University

Marie-Helene Sajous, MD MS (2005) (general internist)

Thesis: *Inhaled Corticosteroids and Asthma Treatment: Modifiable Barriers to Medication Adherence among Urban Adults with Asthma*

Current Position: Private Practice in Florida

Joyce L. Jones, MD MS (2006) (general internist)

Thesis: *PELOS: a Training Program for Latina Beauticians to Educate Their Customers about HIV*

Current Position: Clinical Associate in the Department of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University

Devin M. Mann, MD MS (2006) (general internist)

Thesis: *Steaks and Satins: How Drugs and Diet Interact in the Treatment of Hyperlipidemia and the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease*

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Marina Del Rios Rivera, MD, MS (2007) (emergency medicine)

Thesis: *Searching for Comet-Tails: A Novel Approach in the Emergency Diagnosis of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure*

Current Position: Director of Ultrasound Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center

Nonkulie Dladla, MD MS (2007) (general internist)

Thesis: *Exploratory Evaluation of Acculturation in a Caribbean-Black Community*

Current Position: Clinical Instructor in Medicine at New York University School of Medicine

Heather Neuman, MD, MS (2007) (surgeon)

Thesis: *The Role of Clinical Decisions Aids in Prophylactic Surgery: Development of a Decision Aid For Use In Familial Adenomatous Polyposis*

Current Position: Surgery Oncology Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Kouta Ito, MD, MS (2008) (general internist)

Thesis: *Cost-Effectiveness of Screening Older Men for Primary Osteoporosis: A Decision Analytic Model*

Current Position: Assistant Attending Physician in the Division of General Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York

Samantha Miller, MD (2009) (general internist)

Thesis: *Impact of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on Diabetes in Low-Income Minority Patients*

Current Position: Attending in Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center and Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Carrie Thompson, MD (2009) (general internist)

Thesis: *Health and Psychosocial Outcomes and Their Relationship to Quality of Life in Survivors of Adult Aggressive Lymphoma*

Current Position: Senior Associate Consultant, Division of Hematology, Mayo Clinic