

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN- M.A."Tonette" Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH

Tulane MD/MPH 2024 Graduates finished their combined medical and public health training in style! As the first cohort to enroll in the SOM during the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was a special time for in-person ceremonies and celebration as many did not have formal college graduation experiences due to COVID-19 restrictions. We 'toasted' our 2024 graduates at the first (and hereafter annual) Tulane MD/MPH Graduation Social. It was a perfect way to reflect on our graduates accomplishments through their training, community outreach, and scholarship and their pathway forward as future physicians and medical leaders.

Entering into the Tulane MD/MPH Program's 53rd year with over 1300 graduates to date, there is continued high interest in the combined degree program with an increase in number of enrollees over prior years. With nearly 150 students (T1-T4) currently enrolled (53% women, 29% non-white), the program remains committed to advancing equitable clinical and public health practice with a highly trained and diverse workforce equipped with the skills to practice at the interface of medicine and public. Our students' demonstrated commitment to the integration of social and behavioral disparities and access to healthcare, chronic disease risk throughout the life course, advances in cancer treatment and international public health issues have led to an impressive number of scholarly works, grant funding, awards and honors. Importantly, our students are dedicated to improving health in underserved and underrepresented communities by learning and supporting efforts at the Violence Prevention Institute, Ozanam Inn, Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic, Luke's House Clinic, Louisiana Department of Health, DePaul Community Health Centers, Crescent Care, Children's Hospital Parenting Center, Center for Transgender and Gender Expansive Health, US Department VSFS Program, The Naloxone Project and Bwindi Community and Hospital Buhoma in Uganda. Many thanks to our mentors, advisors, and program support (Dr. DalCorso, Rachael Currier and Taylor Schwab) for their ongoing support.

Further, the MD/MPH Class of 2024 matched in excellent residency programs in 17 different states and 11 different specialties (15 in primary care and 21 in sub-specialties). Additionally, our National Institutes of Health-funded TL1 Pre-doctoral Research Training Program in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) has successfully trained a total of 25 Tulane pre-doctoral students (over 3 funding cycles) in translational research in a year-long mentored research program designed to prepare translational thinkers to address acute and chronic conditions affecting the Gulf South and related health disparities. Many of our students gave poster and oral presentations at the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation's Southern Regional Meeting and the National ACTS Advancing Clinical and Translational Science Meeting to present their research. Many thanks to our donors who provide funding for scholarships and for student travel to attend professional meetings! Through these opportunities, our students learn how to practice at the interface of medicine and public health to improve health of individuals and communities.

This edition of the newsletter highlights some of the achievements of the MD/MPH Class of 2024 and recognizes our current MD/MPH students and recent graduates who received research scholarships and awards. Please let us know how you are using your combined degree and share your recent updates that can be featured in future editions of our newsletter. We want to hear from you! Please visit our website at <https://sph.tulane.edu/mdmph/home> to view more information about our programs and related opportunities. Your continued support and engagement are greatly appreciated!



MD/MPH Graduation Social 2024

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mark Huffman, MD, MPH (2003 graduate) is the William Bowen Professor of Medicine and Co-Director of the Global Health Center at Washington University in St. Louis. He also has an appointment as a Professorial Fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, University of New South Wales in Australia. Professor Huffman is a practicing preventive cardiologist, researcher, and educator who has more than a decade of experience in global cardiovascular disease epidemiology, clinical trials, dissemination and implementation science, and health policy research and training. His research seeks to improve global cardiovascular health and health care in low- and middle-income countries across the spectrum of disease prevention and to bring lessons learned back to the United States.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Jonathan Allotey

Whilst completing his dual degrees, Jonathan was also co-creating BLAC (Brothers Linked Against Cancer). BLAC is a cancer prevention initiative designed to address racial cancer disparities through culturally sensitive educational interventions and health promotion. All while bridging the gap between research and community advocacy, Jonathan was awarded with seven grants and awards throughout his four years at Tulane, including the John Walsh MD Award for Outstanding MD/MPH Student. He also had over 10 presentations and seven publications. Post graduation, Jonathan will continue to his residency in General Surgery at University of Texas Southwestern Med School in Dallas, TX.



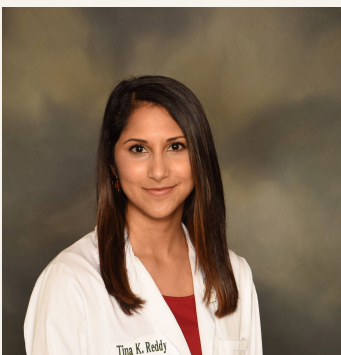
Tuhin Choudhary

Tuhin stated she had a desire to better understand the social determinants of health and the fight for greater healthcare equity which also motivated and caused her to change career paths and pursue medicine. On Tuhin's journey she has earned one of Tulane's most prestigious awards-The Tulane 34 Award-along with 16 other awards, honors and fellowships. She also has two publications and over seven articles, abstracts, and presentations. Tuhin will continue her passion in Medicine-Pediatrics at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA.



Jeffrey De Mond

Jeff has excelled in both Tulane SOM and SPHTM over the past four years. They have worked with the Office of Multicultural Affairs & Center for Public Service as a Community Engagement Advocate (CEA) to foster a campus culture of inclusion, equity, justice and empathy, to prepare students to navigate some of society's most pressing challenges related to power, oppression, and identity. Jeff also demonstrated leadership through their service as the Tulane SOM Class of 2024's Medical Student Government President. Jeff received both the E. Edward McCool, Jr., MD award presented to the medical student who best demonstrates the assets deemed central to the discipline of surgery and one of the prestigious Tulane 34 awards. They will continue their medical training in General Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.



Tina Reddy

While acquiring her dual degrees, Tina was also serving as a Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Medical Student Group (MSG) of Tulane over the last four years. MSG is the governing body for all student run organizations and represents the Tulane School of Medicine student body, to the larger Tulane University community and city of New Orleans. Next to Tinas leadership, she also has over 18 research presentations and publications. She was awarded numerous graduation awards, three being the Tulane 34 Award, Order of the Gold-Tipped Stethoscope & MD/MPH Student Award for Excellence. Tina will continue her journey in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

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2024 MD/MPH SOM & SPHTM AWARDS

MD/MPH Student Award for Excellence, R. Elise Magnus L. Memorial Achievement Award, Thomas A. Giddings, M.D. Humanitarian Award & Order of the Gold-Tipped Stethoscope : **Tina Reddy**

John Walsh MD Award for Outstanding MD/MPH Student: **Jonathan Allotey**

Tulane 34 Award & USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award: **Tuhin Choudhary**

Sidney K. Simon Memorial Prize for Tropical Medicine: **Kaitlin Cruz**

Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Environmental Health Sciences:

Kevin Deehan **Maxwell Leonhardt**

Antonio D'Allessandro Award for Outstanding Student in the MPHTM Clinical Program:
Aprilgate Wang

Colonel Joseph Contiguglia Award for Academic & Professional Excellence in Disaster Management: **Maxwell Leonhardt**

SPHTM Dean's Scholastic 4.0 Award:

Abigail Cahill **Jillian S. Dayneka** **Sarah Greene** **Brianna Griswold** **Kevin Deehan**
Michael Glidewell **Sarah McDonough** **Jeffrey De Mond** **Dylan Pinion** **Yinghong Zhao**

Delta Omega Honorary Public Health Society:

Kaitlin Cruz **Jillian Dayneka** **Jeffrey De Mond** **Kevin Deehan** **Brianna Griswold**
Dylan Pinion

Achievement Aware in Inter-American Friendship and Understanding: **Anna Alvarado**

American Medical Women's Association Glasglow-Rubin Achievement Citation: **Abigail Cahill**

Department of Medicine Chairmans's Award: **Jillian Dayneka**

E.Edward McCool, JR., M.D. Award: **Jeffrey De Mond**

Gold Scapel Award: **Dylan Pinion**

Louisiana Academy of Family Physician Family Medicine Excellence Award: **Bridget Bunda**

Scott Gregory Kramer, M.D. Family Medicine Award: **Brianna Griswold**

Querens-Rives-Shore Award in Cardiology: **Rohit Rao**

2024 MD/MPH RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Hannah Chiu (MD/MPH 2024) was awarded the Morgadanes Research Scholarship of \$15,000 for her project "Wearable Devices For Heart Rate Variability and Vagal Tone."

Olivia French (MD/MPH 2024) was awarded the Morgadanes Research Scholarship of \$15,000 for her project "Understanding the Dynamics Between Thai Culture and Women's Health Across Generations of Thai Women."

Lixin Ji (MP/MPH 2025) was awarded the SSCI Student Research Award & Morgandanes Research Scholarship for her project "Nad Precursors Cycle Between Host Tissues and the Gut Microbiome"

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Juliet Strauss

Research Topic: *Mutagenesis and treatment responses for cancers with POLE mutations*

Mentor: Zac Pursell, PhD

Achievements: 1st Place SSCI Young Investigator Award, Top 50 ACTS TS 2024 abstract

2023-2024 CCTS TL1 Scholars

Congratulations to **Juliet Strauss, Robert Clark, Claire Romaine, Katherine McKeon and Grant Talkington** for being selected as 2023-2024 Tulane CCTS TL1 Scholars! Tulane partners with the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) TL1 training program; a NIH-funded fellowship program that prepares investigators to pursue careers in health services and clinical research to address disparities and/or diseases disproportionately represented in the Deep South.

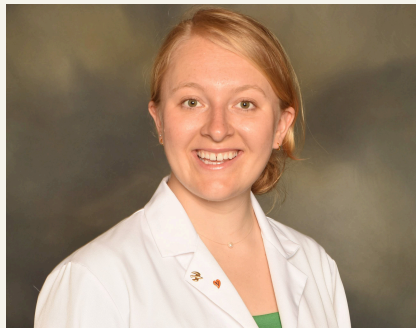


Robert Clark

Research Topic: *Immune response and gene therapy for Cystic Fibrosis*

Mentor: Jay Kolls, MD

Achievements: 2nd Place SSCI Young Investigator Award



Claire Romaine

Research Topic: *Social-ecological approach to outline risks to medication adherence during disasters*

Mentor: M.A. Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH



Grant Talkington

Research Topic: *Cognitive impact of vascular dementia and long COVID*
Mentor: Gregory Bix, MD, PhD



Katherine McKeon

Research Topic: *Serum copper and kidney function in bariatric surgery patients*

Mentor: Felicia Rabito, PhD

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"A former student in French and Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at Tulane and a recent graduate of Tulane's MD/MPH program in 2021, I am now a 3rd year pediatric resident and StARR Scholar. I have the privilege of dedicated time to research important health issues impacting southern youth. My research focuses on sexual health education in the Deep South and the role healthcare providers play in sexual & reproductive health education. I am passionate about helping adolescents and young adults reach their fullest potential and am committed to working, alongside my amazing mentors, towards reproductive justice for all."

- Stephanie Shea, MD, MPH



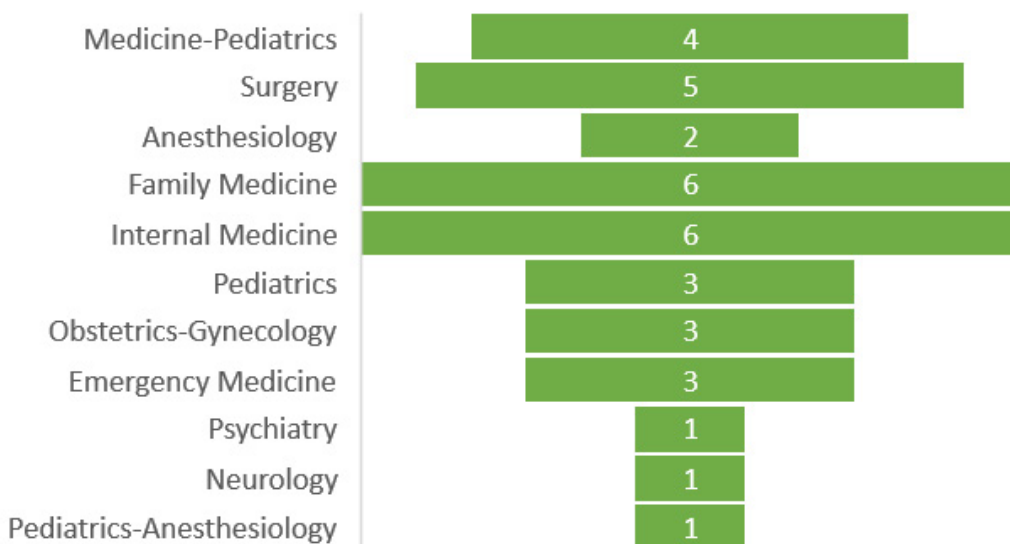
MD/MPH CLASS OF 2024 RESULTS

Another great Match showing by Tulane's MD/MPH students!

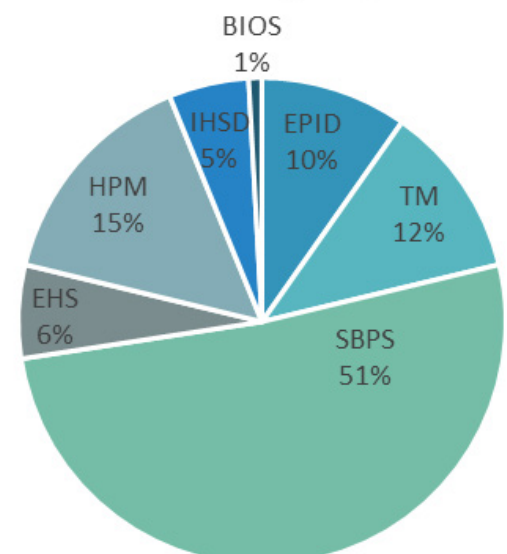
The Class of 2024 had 36 students completing the MD/MPH Program!



Match Results by Specialty



Match Results By Department



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MD/MPH PUBLICATIONS 2020-2024

1. **Allotey J**, Caposole M, Attia A, Coonan E, Noguera V, Lewis E, Bloomenthal MS, Issa P, Omar M, Aboueisha M, Crisp B, Baker J, Levy S, Galvani C. GERD-screening before bariatric surgery: the predictive value of the GERD-HRQL questionnaire score compared with preoperative EGD findings. *Surg Endosc*. 2023 Dec;37(12):9572-9581. doi: 10.1007/s00464-023-10388-0. Epub 2023 Sep 20. PMID: 37730853.
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If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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