

## **Current Fellows Projects**

**Christina M. Arnett, MD, 2<sup>nd</sup> year fellow** received her medical degree from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA in 2000. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology in 2004 from Women's and Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, CA. In addition to the fellowship in Health Services Research program, Dr. Arnett is also completing a clinical fellowship with the Center for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility at Weill-Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Arnett's fellowship research project is in the area of in vitro fertilization and prevention of pregnancy loss.

**Samantha A. Miller, MD, 2<sup>nd</sup> year fellow** received her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY in 2004. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY in 2007. Dr. Miller's interests are in urban health and chronic medical conditions in underserved populations. During her residency she completed a study addressing the manifestations of HIV during menopause. Her fellowship research project focuses on the role of social stress and diabetes mellitus. This patient-centered project will have implications for quality improvement in the management of these conditions, which often occur simultaneously in primary care.

**Carrie A. Thompson, MD, 2<sup>nd</sup> year fellow** received her medical degree from St. Louis University Medical School, St. Louis, MO in 2001. She completed her residency in internal medicine in 2004 and her fellowship in Hematology/Oncology in 2007 from the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, MN. Dr. Thompson's interests are in long-term follow-up of patients with lymphoma. Her fellowship research project will focus on quality of life in lymphoma survivors and the incidence of new cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. This project focuses on quality improvement in the surveillance of the life-threatening comorbidity in the growing population of cancer survivors.

**Melinda Chen, MD 1<sup>st</sup> year fellow** received her MD from Drew University of California in 2003. She is currently working as a primary care physician for adults with developmental disabilities at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Dr. Chen's research interest is to study environmental determinants of health. She has a particular interest in the incidence of breast cancer in Asian American women. Dr. Chen plans to conduct quantitative as well as qualitative studies of risk factors that occur earlier in life and even in intrauterine stages to identify new ways to intervene.

## 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. Educational 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 the use of the neutopenic 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.

*All the studies described below were designed and carried out by our graduates.*

**Aba Barden-Maja, MD MS** (general internist); Graduation Date: 1997

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** (health education nurse); Graduation Date: 1997

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** (general internist); Graduation Date: 1997

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** (general internist); Graduation Date: 1997

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** (rheumatologist); Graduation Date: 1998

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** (geriatrician); Graduation Date: 1999

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

Current position: Associate Professor in the Departments of Geriatrics and Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine

**Carla Boutin-Foster, MD MS** (general internist); Graduation Date: 1999

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

Current position: Associate Professor Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine at the Weill Cornell Medical College

**Paulo A. Pacheco, MD MS** (gastroenterologist); Graduation Date: 1999

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** (oncologist); Graduation Date: 2000

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** (general internist); Graduation Date: 2001

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); Graduation Date: 2001

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** (general internist); Graduation Date: 2001

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** (general internist); Graduation Date: 2001

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** (general internist)

Graduation Date: 2002

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** (pediatric oncologist)

Graduation Date: 2002

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** (emergency medicine physician)

Graduation Date: 2003

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** (general internist); Graduation Date: 2003

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, MD MS** (general internist); Graduation Date: 2003

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 the Weill Medical College

**Lawrence A. Melniker, MD MS** (emergency department physician)

Graduation Date: 2004

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** (pediatrician); Graduation Date: 2004

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

Current position: Instructor of Pediatrics at the Weill Cornell Medical College and an Assistant Attending Physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital

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

Graduation Date: 2005

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 Specialist in the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

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

Graduation Date: 2005

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** (general internist)

Graduation Date: 2005

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** (general internist)

Graduation Date: 2006

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** (general internist)

Graduation Date: 2006

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

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

Graduation Date: 2007

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

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

**Marina Del Rios, MD, MS** (emergency medicine physician)

Graduation Date: 2007

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

**Heather Neuman, MD MS** (surgery)

Graduation Date: 2007

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** (geriatric medicine)

Graduation Date: 2008

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