

## 2017-2018 Categorical Interns



Auriel August,  
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Bio: My name is Auriel August and I was born at Duke University Hospital, but I was raised in West Palm Beach, Florida. I spent my youth as a typical south Florida kid eating Cuban food and going to the beach. I also started riding horses at the age of 9 and began competing internationally in jumping competitions at the age of 12. I was convinced I wanted seasons so I left Florida and attended Duke University for college, fulfilling my destiny. I graduated in 2012 with a degree in biomedical engineering and a minor in chemistry. I focused my undergraduate studies in biomechanics, biomaterials and tissue engineering always intending to enter medicine. While at Duke, I was a member of Engineers Without Borders and served as the Vice President of the National Society of Black Engineers where we organized outreach activities to garner minority interest in the math and sciences. In addition to academics I continued horseback riding, competing on the intercollegiate circuit on Duke's equestrian team.

After spending my gap year continuing my research in neural prosthetics, I attended Dartmouth for medical school. I quickly learned exactly just how cold it can get outside and that true seasons are overrated, but also how to snowboard! While in medical school I was able to grow my interest in both global health and medical education.

During my first year summer I received a pediatric research grant to travel to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania and complete a project studying the pulmonary function of HIV positive children. I also served as the Northeast Regional Chair of the AAMC's Organization of Student Representatives, which allowed me to work closely with medical school deans and leaders of teaching hospitals to help improve medical education.

Outside of medicine I enjoy exploring new cities, boxing, reading, sunshine and a good meal shared with good company. I am so excited to join the Stanford surgery family and dust off my sandals!



Carlos Ayala,  
University of Minnesota Medical School

Bio: I was born on the island of Puerto Rico to hard working parents. There I obtained my bachelors in biology at the University of Puerto Rico, where I engaged in extensive undergraduate research. It was my curiosity to pursue scientific questions and the study of disease states that led me to move to Minnesota. I know what you're thinking right now; you went from a tropical weather to Minnesota! Yes, the twin-cities was a change for sure and the first winter you never forget. Nine years later I can say it was a fantastic change that has shaped my family's life and me forever. I left the island to join the MSTP (MD/PhD) program at the University of Minnesota. During my PhD phase I used *Drosophila* as a model system to study autophagy, a housekeeping mechanism that degrades the cytoplasm

and organelles during stress conditions to maintain cellular homeostasis. My thesis focused in elucidating the role of Rab GTPases during starvation-induced autophagy. It was during this period that I develop a strong interest in cancer biology and diseases of the GI system, especially hepato-pancreatobiliary. During my clerkships I fell in love with surgery and the rest is history. The dual nature of surgeons managing patients in the floor and performing surgery in the OR seemed fascinating and mentally stimulating. Once I decided my residency would be surgery I contacted the surgical oncology division at the University with whom I have been doing outcomes research on breast cancer patients. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my wife and son. In a few months we will welcome our new baby. I also enjoy trying new foods, craft beers, cooking, biking, running and traveling to new places. Couldn't be happier to be joining you at Stanford for my surgical training. Looking forward to meeting and working with you. See you soon.

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Peter Cha  
University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine

Bio: I took a longer path to medicine and surgery. Born in Los Angeles, I was raised as the middle of three sons in a first-generation immigrant family. While I was growing up, my parents struggled to make ends meet, so I had to work several part-time jobs throughout high school and college to support myself. Motivated by this, I obtained a degree in Business Economics with an Accounting minor at UCLA and entered the financial industry. After first working as an investment consultant analyst, I then joined a hedge fund, Ivory Capital, as a research associate. However, despite a promising career, I realized that I was never truly passionate about my work. After much self-reflection and exploration, I changed career paths to pursue medicine. I completed a pre-medicine post-baccalaureate program at Northwestern University and came back to UCLA for medical school. After further exposure through the DGSOM Pathway in Clinical and Translational Research, the power and versatility of stem cells fascinated me, and I consequently joined my mentor's lab to study a novel subpopulation of mesenchymal stem cells and their potential role for soft tissue repair and tissue engineering. In my third year, I fell in love with general surgery on my trauma rotation and, as such, have now found that sense of purpose I had been looking for in this winding path. Outside the hospital, I am working out at the gym, hiking, traveling, or unfortunately watching the Lakers and Rams (lose). Now, I could not be more excited to have this great opportunity to start my surgical training at Stanford.

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Jeff Choi  
Stanford University School of Medicine

Bio: Starting from Pusan, Korea, over 20 moves throughout my first 17 years took me across the Pacific and many pockets of the continent, from Canada to Texas. I studied Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell, and trekked across different continents during breaks to learn about how diverse worlds experience healthcare. At Stanford School of Medicine, I led strategic projects within Stanford Healthcare as senior partner of the Stanford Healthcare Consulting Group, and explored translational studies in immunology (immune cell signal mapping with CyTOF) and regenerative medicine (mesenchymal stem cell therapy for kidney disease). I love Korean BBQ, and consider eating great cuisines among the best joys of life. I am thrilled to be joining Stanford Surgery; I look forward to learning from you, and our journey ahead.

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Sue Fu,  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Bio: My family moved to Palo Alto when I was 10; before that we lived in (in order): Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Los Angeles. I went to Gunn High School, where I ran cross country and track, took art classes, and worked odd jobs as a cashier in a European-style produce market and Greene Library media center. I started off my undergraduate career at UCLA and then transferred to Williams College midway through. I double majored in neuroscience and economics. After college, I decided I needed some “real life experience” and went to work as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan in New York. I came away after three years of that with “real life experience”, mad Excel skills, and a renewed conviction that I wanted to help people for a career. I attended Case Western for medical school where I discovered I could apply my Excel skills in research relating to cost outcomes of esophagectomy. I’m interested in continuing that research to better understand costs of healthcare and how we can improve the overall system. For fun, I like to spend time with my friends and family (Papa Fu, Mama Fu, and sister Fu), run, hike, paint, cook, eat, listen and play music. I’m beyond excited to start my surgical training at Stanford!

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Alfred Song,  
Baylor College of Medicine

Bio: I grew up on the Gulf coast of Texas in the suburbs of Houston where my father worked as an engineer in the oil and gas industry and my mother as a nurse. It was during my childhood in Texas that I picked up a lasting appreciation of the outdoors, especially the ocean. After high school I moved to Austin to attend the University of

Texas where I earned my bachelors and doctorate degrees in biology and biomedical engineering, respectively. While in graduate school, I began to sense a disconnect between engineers and the people we were attempting to serve by our designs. As teachers of engineers we professed that design was to driven by the needs of the customer, yet in my own work on thermal therapies I had never interacted with a patient. This dissonance became a major driving force in my career and decision to become a physician. I wanted to innately understand the challenges patients and physicians face in the care and treatment of disease so that my work as an engineer would be timely, relevant and impactful. I made the decision to pursue surgery while at Baylor College of Medicine based on the contentment that I experienced with the contribution I was making to others' lives as a clerkship student. This past interview season I sought out like-minded surgeons, scientists and members of industry who had the intention, goal and experience to bring tangible solutions to the problems faced by surgical patients. Today, I have the good fortune of training with the most incredible group of surgeons, scientists and industry members at Stanford. I look forward to working with and getting to know you all – the patients, students, residents, staff and faculty.



Kirbi Yelorda,  
University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine

Bio: I was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. I'm the youngest of four and am delighted to be moving closer to two of my siblings currently living in California. After high school I entered the combined B.A./M.D. six-year program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While at UMKC, I was very active in my local Student National Medical Association chapter. I am a strong believer in mentorship, and as a result, was heavily involved with mentoring and tutoring underrepresented minority high school students in various medical pipeline programs. I also grew up as an athlete and avid sports fan, and was the president and founder of the Sports Medicine Interest Group at UMKC. During medical school, my research experience primarily focused on quality improvement, colon cancer screening efficacy, and perioperative antiplatelet use in the setting of brachial plexus blocks for vascular access procedures. Outside of the hospital, I enjoy playing piano and chess, hiking, working out, and exploring new cities. I am a first-degree black belt in Taekwondo, and although I no longer formally train, I serve as a volunteer ringside medic for local amateur mixed martial arts events. As a Kansas City native, I am a die-hard Chiefs fan and am excited to bring some Kansas City pride to the Bay Area! I am thrilled to be joining the Stanford family and am looking forward to working with you all.

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## 2017-2018 General Surgery Prelims



Wilson Alobuia  
University of Arkansas College of Medicine

Bio: I was born and raised in Ghana, where I attended and graduated from High school. I moved to the United States 8 years ago to attend college at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, AR with a major in Biology and a minor in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Norbert O. Schedler Honors College. As a biology major, I became interested in and fascinated by the mechanisms of cell death and apoptosis, which led to my participation in various research projects to elucidate pathways of endonuclease-mediated endothelial cell injury and death. For my undergraduate thesis, I studied the mechanism of neuronal death induced by A $\beta$ -42, an amyloid peptide implicated in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. In contrast, my experiences in the Honors College allowed me the opportunity to- for the first time- explore topics in literature, religion, social psychology and ancient Greek philosophy. In the process, I became very interested in how complex issues of race, gender, identity and other dimensions of inequality affect health and education. These interests have guided my passion for education, innovation and global health, which took me to Jamaica where I worked with the Jamaican Western Regional Health Authority to study, assess and address the epidemic of vector-borne diseases. Although my interest in a medical career dates back to my childhood, my interest in a surgical career began when I had the opportunity to work as a surgical assistant for a year after college. I am absolutely in love with surgery and cannot wait to begin this journey. In my free time, I enjoy soccer, playing my bass guitar, teaching, and learning to play the piano. I am very thrilled and honored for the opportunity to begin my surgical training at Stanford, and look forward to meeting and working with everyone.

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Lynne Martin  
Boston University School of Medicine

Bio: I was born and raised with two brothers in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My mom is from The Netherlands and my dad is from California. I grew up with Dutch traditions and trips to Europe to visit family. My family travelled quite a bit and instilled a love for travel in me. Growing up I was a nationally competitive gymnast. Unfortunately, I had quite a few injuries requiring surgery that ended my career. I went to college at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and was on the varsity diving team. My team was conference champions all four years, and senior year, I was captain of the team. I majored in neuroscience and spent a year after graduation doing research focused on the dopaminergic system and methamphetamine addiction.

Throughout life, I have done art, mostly sculpting and wire jewelry but also some glass fusing and fabric work. Going into medical school I knew I wanted to work with my hands and was naturally drawn to procedure-based fields. I enjoyed surgery and Interventional Radiology. I attended Boston University School of Medicine and was part of the first class to partake in the Kaiser California program. I spent my third year and the majority of my fourth year on the West Coast and fell in love with the area. I am elated to be attending Stanford University for my surgical preliminary year and my Interventional Radiology residency following that. In my free time I enjoy working out, hiking, traveling, art, and watching cheesy action movies (Jason Statham, also a former diver, is my favorite actor.) I have an amazing husband, Kevin, who keeps me grounded and cooks wonderful food.

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Sarah Cheng  
Stanford University School of Medicine

Bio: I grew up in San Diego, California and as an only child and consider both my parents to be my best friends to this day. We love to hike and explore the outdoors together, travel and try new foods. My dad and I especially like animals, so animal planet can always be found turned on in our living room. After high school I moved to Stanford for college and joined a neuroscience lab that I loved, which inspired me to pursue a career incorporating basic science. Between college and medical school, I spent one year continuing neuroscience research at the NIH before coming back to the Farm. In medical school, general surgery was one of my last rotations during third year and I loved every second of it and wished I had done my surgery rotation earlier. Outside of rotations I enjoyed working on the weekends at Pacific Free Clinic and serving as a co-president of Women and Medicine. I will be getting married in May to my fiance Thomas, an MD/PhD student at Stanford. I'm thrilled to be back at Stanford as a prelim surgery resident, before heading to UCLA for a research track ophthalmology residency where I will be completing a neuroscience PhD and clinical residency. I'm looking forward to being an intern year at Stanford, and cannot wait to explore even more sub-specialties of general surgery. In my free time I enjoy exploring the outdoors, baking, and photography.

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James Hui  
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Bio: I grew up in Xi'an, the ancient capital in northwest China, where my parents worked as biomedical researchers. We moved to Los Angeles when I was 12. While the move to the States was challenging at first, I enjoyed meeting and befriending a large group of diverse individuals in the heart of metropolitan LA. I stayed in the city to attend undergraduate college at UCLA, where I majored in Biochemistry and conducted research in MRI-based molecular imaging. While I was perfectly happy with life in La-La land (and free laundry at home), I decided to move to Philadelphia to pursue my medical and graduate training. At the University of Pennsylvania, I was a trainee of the Bioengineering Department and HHMI-NIH Biomedical Imaging Program. During my Ph.D. I carried out nanotechnology research to develop a new generation of antibody based imaging and therapeutic agents. One aspect of bioengineering research that I liked in particular are was the hands-on works involved including building devices and performing procedures. This realization, combined with my love of anatomy, convinced me to pursue surgical training and a residency in interventional radiology. I would like to utilize my molecular imaging and clinical training to translate bioengineering advances into procedures and treatments for diseases. In my spare

time, I like to learn about new gadgets and to build kennels and playpens for our Shiba Inu puppy. I am very excited to be able to join Stanford for the next phase of my training!

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Stephan Leung  
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Bio: I was born in Iowa but moved to Eugene, Oregon when I was very young. Growing up in TrackTown USA I enjoyed playing soccer, going on biking adventures with my friends, tanning under the overcast skies and rooting for my Oregon Ducks. During high school, I moved down to the Bay Area where I discovered semi-sunny weather and seemingly-everlasting traffic. Afterwards, I moved south again to study Biochemistry and Economics at the University of California, San Diego. It was there where I fell in love with the sciences. I spent a year researching the thiol-dependent pathways in Actinobacteria and helped discover a protein called MST which was shown to be involved in the detoxification pathways in Mycobacterium. Interested also in education, I spent several years at UCSD as a tutor for the Preuss School UCSD helping low income students discover their own passions while preparing them for college. After undergrad, I made the arduous trek to the east coast for medical school at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. It was there where I had to exchange the t-shirts in my wardrobe for warm winter jackets. Yet my experience has been positive, from trying new Amish foods to visiting historical American cities and seeing their own unique cultures. I spent days from studying medicine and researching the role of PEDF in osteogenesis imperfecta to learning how to tree-bend (literally what it sounds like) with friends. However, after four years on the east coast, I am excited to be coming back home to the Bay and starting a new chapter at Stanford especially since my younger brother went to Cal. We can now truly call it a “sibling rivalry”, although is it really a rivalry if one team dominates another?

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Allen Young  
Johns Hopkins

Bio: I was born and raised by my grandmother in rural China. I moved to the US with my parents when I was 6 years old and have lived across the country in Oklahoma, Oregon, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. I attended college at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) where I majored in Neuroscience. During my undergraduate years, I was involved in global health missions abroad and founded Pre-Meds without Borders on campus to raise funds to support NGOs in developing countries. In Ghana, I worked at a rural maternity clinic to help deliver

obstetric, malarial, and HIV care to local villagers. In Ecuador, I worked in the Andes Mountains to help provide water sanitation education as well as vaccinations and TB care to the indigenous tribe, Los Tsáchila. My global health experiences led me to pursue a Master's of Public Health at UAB focusing on healthcare policy. I complimented my MPH with an internship at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in Baltimore where I updated public health databases on racial health disparities and raised awareness for local public health initiatives across the counties of Maryland. I later attended medical school at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where I focused on improving politicians' awareness of Graduate Medical Education funding with the American Medical Association. My involvement in the local community also led me to spearhead a tailored, healthy cookbook for the low socioeconomic citizens of Baltimore, providing estimated costs and nutritional content for each recipe as well as detailed maps on farmers markets and grocery stores around the city. In my free time, I enjoy open water swimming, triathlons, marathons, obstacle courses, gourmet cooking, and going on food adventures around the city. I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to start my surgical adventure at Stanford!

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