

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

RESIDENTS

CLASS OF 2023



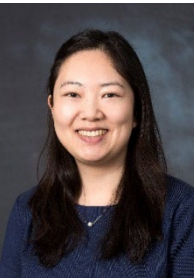
Zachary Abid, MD

Medical School: University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio

Clinical Interests: Nephrology and hospitalist medicine.

Why HonorHealth? HonorHealth stood out among other residency programs in terms of emphasis on wellness, resident class size, and resources made available to help ensure time is spent on becoming high quality independently practicing physicians.

Fun facts/hobbies: My interests include hiking, natural science, and hanging out with friends. I'm passionate about music and playing the drums.



Elena Cho, DO

Medical School: Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

Clinical Interests: I enjoy the collaborative aspect of internal medicine, along with its diversity in pathology and population. I see myself dividing my time as a hospitalist and outpatient primary care physician.

Why HonorHealth? I saw a lot of my interests and passions align with HonorHealth when I researched the program. I wanted to be a resident at a non-profit program, with great outreach programs, and a focus on the patient and community. HonorHealth also provided a fabulous location in Scottsdale, inclusive environment among its staff and residents, thoughtful wellness and leadership classes, excellent educational opportunities, and exceptional benefits for its residents. I felt that I would receive an outstanding education, to allow me to be the best physician I can be, in a welcoming and nurturing environment.

Fun facts/hobbies: I enjoy good food, baking, reading up on current events and being active with running, yoga, and Pilates. I also find great joy in helping others, community service, preventative care and educating patients on how to be their best advocate.



Sheridan James, MD

Medical School: University of Arizona College of Medicine

Clinical Interests: I am interested in going into Primary Care with an emphasis in Preventative and Lifestyle Medicine. While I am a firm believer in Western Medicine, I also have a passion for understanding the way our everyday habits play a role in disease and how we can best mitigate disease by adopting healthier lifestyles.

Why HonorHealth? HonorHealth as a program stood out to me as an environment where I feel supported and provided with an incredible opportunity to learn from Attending Physicians, while encouraged to grow into my own career.

Fun facts/hobbies: Outside of work I love to do anything active including running, walking my two dogs, lifting weights, and cycling. I also love spending time with my husband and family.



Melissa Kerkelis, MD

Medical School: University of Queensland

Clinical Interests: I chose internal medicine because it is a challenging and thought-provoking field. I am currently undecided about whether to sub-specialize, although I have taken a special liking to infectious disease.

Why HonorHealth? What drew me to HonorHealth was the smaller class size, the friendly interview experience, and its location in sunny Scottsdale. I feel this program will give me the direction and instruction that I need to develop professionally as a physician, while affording me a good work-life balance.

Fun facts/hobbies: Outside of working and studying, I enjoy watching stand-up comedy, musicals, racquet sports, reading, and road trips!



Klaire S.Y. Kim, MD

Medical School: Dartmouth School of Medicine

Why HonorHealth? Among many reasons, “good people” is the main reason I chose HonorHealth. I found warm, inspiring mentors who will bring me up to a caring, competent physician, and “good people” whom I wanted to be lifelong friends with.

Fun facts/hobbies: Dog training, product design, fruit seed sprouting/planting

**Mark Shoukry, MD**

Medical School: Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

Clinical interests: I am interested general internal medicine and hope to practice as a hospitalist or in an academic setting.

Why HonorHealth? The positive and supportive atmosphere among faculty, staff, and residents despite the rigorous curriculum at Honor Health initially caught my attention and make me proud to be part of the program.

Fun facts/hobbies: I enjoy bike riding, hiking, and most things outdoors. Travel has been a lifelong passion and hope after completing my residency I can use my medical training globally to support others wherever I may be.

Class of 2024



Joseph Lemmons, MD

Medical School: University of Minnesota Medical School

Clinical Interests: My clinical interests are in-hospital medicine as it requires in depth clinical reasoning for the diverse pathologies. Further, I am passionate about leading a medical team that strives to create a dynamic environment for open communication and patient-focused care.

Why HonorHealth? After my interview with Dr. Sall I knew HonorHealth was the place I wanted to be trained at. This program emphasized personalized feedback with rigorous training in the context of a supportive environment. I felt that resident growth and wellbeing are priorities, and this was also extremely important to me. Lastly, I am excited for the warm weather coming from the long winters of MN.



Elaine Murad, D.O

Medical School: Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine at New Mexico State University

Clinical interest: It is my goal to eventually pursue a fellowship in hematology/oncology.

Why HonorHealth? HonorHealth has had an impact on my life on a personal and professional level. Having grown up in the Scottsdale area, my family and I have trusted the HonorHealth healthcare system as patients ourselves over the years. HonorHealth also fostered my initial interest in pursuing medicine as a high school student volunteer when Thompson Peak Medical Center first opened in 2007 and later as a medical scribe at Deer Valley following my undergraduate studies. These firsthand experiences with the physicians in the HonorHealth network have genuinely led me to believe that they are some of the best healthcare providers in our state, and I am looking forward to training and learning from them while serving the community I call home.

Fun facts/hobbies: In my free time, I cherish spending time with my husband and family, hiking with friends, long-distance running, and attempting new recipes in the kitchen.



Chandresh Nandani, D.O

Medical School: Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

Clinical Interests: I am leaning towards a future as a hospitalist. However, I also find critical care pathologies fascinating and am considering a fellowship in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine.

Academic Accomplishments: I collaborated with the clinical education faculty at my school to update our LGBTQIA+ curriculum and helped host workshops pertaining to LGBT patient care. I was also an Ultrasound TA and worked on research pertaining to ultrasound education. My other research interest involved the implementation of Quality Improvement Projects as a part of the clerkship curriculum for rotating medical students.

Why HonorHealth? I did an audition rotation at Thompson Peak and fell in love with everything about the program. The residents were superb and it was evident that resident wellness was taken seriously. The standard of care for patients was top-notch and I got to see a huge assortment of clinical scenarios. I left, every day, feeling more energized than when I started and knew that the HonorHealth program was special.



Alec Stanke, D.O

Medical School: A.T. Still University of Health Sciences Kirksville College of Osteopathic

Clinical Interest: Going forward in my career I look forward to becoming a hospitalist and advocating for patients who are often going through a stressful situation while admitted. I want to be a jack of all trades, if you will, and take care of all aspects of a person's well-being.

Why HonorHealth? I chose HonorHealth because I truly believe they will prepare me to care for the whole person. My belief in the program is rooted in my vast experience with HonorHealth during medical school, and the interview process where resident wellness was stressed just as much as the education itself.

Fun facts/hobbies: I am originally from Kansas City, Missouri. My wife, Emily, and I have been living in Phoenix for the last two years. This past February we had our first son, Kailo. We are major foodies and love to cook and eat out! Our favorite restaurants are The Henry and Chelsea's Kitchen. I was also accepted into the honor fraternity Sigma Sigma Phi.



Zachary Trotter, MD

Medical School: University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Clinical Interest: I'm interested in global health, and I'm open to all fellowship fields as of now, especially allergy/immunology

Why HonorHealth? My fiancé and I were first interested in Honor Health because of the location and after we realized what a special resident-centered program it was, we were sold!



Aaron Truong, M.D

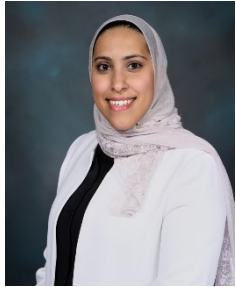
Medical School: University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

Clinical Interest: My clinical interests are in primary care. I hope to serve as a hospitalist or internist where I can continue to practice broadly and continue to expand my knowledge in medicine. I feel as though internal medicine allows me to explore many different pathologies and interests and is an integral role in providing care for the community.

Academic Accomplishments: Published 3 academic manuscripts, taught first year medical students physical exam maneuvers in the teaching in medicine series, several hours of community service in the commitment to underserved people program.

Why HonorHealth? I choose HonorHealth because it was a very welcoming program that was not shy in putting resident wellness first. They were pleasant and cordial during the interview and really gave the impression that they were a truly supportive program. I am excited at the opportunity to work amongst a smaller more intimate cohort that has support from the program and each other to explore our interests.

Class of 2025



Marwah Ahmad, DO

Medical School: Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

Clinical Interests: I am currently interested in pursuing a career as a hospitalist. I am passionate about enhancing and promoting medical education and would like to see myself playing a role in an academic setting.

Why HonorHealth? I was drawn to HonorHealth because of their class size, emphasis on medical education, commitment to resident wellness, and overall friendliness during the interview process.

Fun facts/hobbies: My hobbies include reading poetry and attempting to write some (but don't ask me to read anything I write out loud). I enjoy bike riding and hiking, but my passion is drinking iced coffee.



Samier Deen, DO

Medical School: Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

Clinical Interest: Cardiology or hospitalist medicine in an academic setting.

Why HonorHealth? Having completed a sub-internship at Thompson Peak, I was immediately drawn to a system that values collaboration, education, and community so highly. The small class size and superb faculty were other compelling reasons that made choosing this program an easy choice. In addition, having lived in the North Scottsdale area for many years with plans to serve others in my home community long-term, I felt it was an honor to be a part of a system that would enable me to achieve my goals.

Hobbies/Interests: In my free time, I value spending time with my wife and family, weightlifting, and home improvement projects.



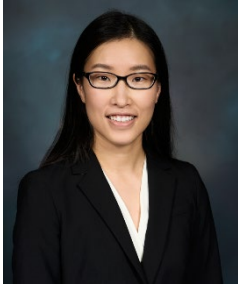
Paul Gilbert, MD

Medical School: Loma Linda University School of Medicine

Clinical Interest: I am interested in point of care ultrasound, and its ability to improve patient care while remaining affordable.

Why HonorHealth: Attending a residency which fostered a positive learning environment was particularly important for me. HonorHealth's emphasis on resident support, wellness, and mentorship made me feel confident in choosing to come here for training.

Fun facts/hobbies: I enjoy large scale projects which challenge me and broaden my skill set. My favorite project was restoring an old Corvette! I also enjoy having the opportunity to connect with people from all walks of life and learn from their unique perspectives.

**Julie Lee, DO**

Medical School: A.T. Still University - School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona

Why HonorHealth? The supportive environment, emphasis on growth, and the kind faculty, staff, and residents stood out to me the most about HonorHealth.

Hobbies/Interests: Running, bike riding, and yoga

**Simmi Singh, MD**

Medical School: Howard University College of Medicine.

Clinical interests: Quality improvement, preventive medicine, and oncology.

Fun facts/hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my husband, hiking, and yoga. HonorHealth stood out as a cultivating program with a robust academic curriculum and tight-knit group of nurturing faculty and residents.

**Alexa Viniotis, DO**

Medical School: Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest.

Clinical Interest: Include primary care, hematology, immunology, and rheumatology.

Why HonorHealth? I chose the program because of the supportive community where faculty and co-residents value my professional and personal goals.

Fun fact/hobbies: In my spare time, I enjoy vacationing with my family, walking my dog, singing, ballet, and cooking. On occasion, I consult Amazon Echo "Alexa" for advice.

Preliminary – PGY-1

Class of 2026



Benjamin Buttars, DO DERM

Medical School: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Dothan, Alabama,

Clinical Interest: Mohs Surgery and a recent interest in Dermatopathology

Why HonorHealth? I chose HonorHealth because it felt like “home” during my rotation. The administrators, attendings, and residents all were positive, uplifting individuals that I felt I had known for years. This is a program that wants its residents to be successful and happy. For me, I knew I had to come here.

Fun fact/hobbies: When I’m not wrangling with my two little boys, I love anything to do with water, whether liquid or solid. I grew up water skiing, wakeboarding, snowboarding, surfing, and recently took up kiteboarding in the Gulf Coast. I also love the outdoors and enjoys camping, fishing, and hunting.



Parth Patel, DO DERM

Medical School: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie Pennsylvania. I

Clinical Interest: Field of dermatology. I am particularly drawn to the complex medical cases that are unique to dermatology and the surgical aspects of dermatology.

Why HonorHealth? I rotated through HonorHealth as medical student, and many things stood out to me as a perfect fit as the residency program for me. I think the environment that they foster to assist the residents to grow and become the best physicians that they can resonated the most with me. The relationship I observed between the residents and their colleagues, other residents and attending physicians, was very strong as well. Lastly, I wanted to choose a program that best prepared me to practice medicine at the highest level when I am finished with my training and the confidence and preparedness of the chief residents here emulated that.

Fun facts/hobbies: When I am not working, my interests include working out at the gym, going on runs, surfing, snowboarding, hiking, live music, and traveling. I am passionate about enjoying nature, I think that the world is an unbelievable place with so much to offer. Being able to be active and go see what the world has to offer, in any capacity, is what I love. Whether that be going to see different countries, going on hikes, going to the beach, or playing sports outside, I love it all.



Dylan Kassenbrock, DO PM&R

Medical School: A.T. Still University in Mesa.

Clinical Interest: Traumatic brain injury and musculoskeletal disorders, which I plan on pursuing through residency and beyond.

Why HonorHealth? As an Arizona native, I loved the idea of caring for patients in my hometown, close to my family and friends. The program size of HonorHealth allows me to have a closer relationship with my patients and as well as my attendings, which is what drew me to this program. HonorHealth also puts the health and wellness of residents at the forefront, which is an attribute that I found enticing as an incoming resident. I could not be happier to carry on my medical training than I am here at HonorHealth.

Fun facts/hobbies: In my free time, I enjoy relaxing with my girlfriend, Krista and golden retriever, Lucy. I continue to write music and build guitar pedals as a hobby. I am passionate about osteopathic medicine and listening to patients



Kyle Malek, MD PM&R

Medical School: University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

Clinical Interest: After my preliminary year with internal medicine, I will continue my training in Physiatry with a clinical interest in Sports Medicine and Chronic Pain/Spine.

Why HonorHealth? When applying to HonorHealth I was particularly struck by how resident centered the program seemed to be. The small and intimate ratio of students to preceptors was exactly what I was looking for. The staff seemed to truly know their residents and to be fully committed to providing excellent medical training. Honor Health also offers an extremely diverse patient base with opportunities to train under multiple specialists at several different medical centers.

Fun fact/hobbies: In my free time I enjoy working with my hands building and creating, whether it is with construction projects or restoring classic vehicles. I also have a passion for tennis and anything that involves a little competition, most recently this has been a small CrossFit obsession.