

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Fellows

Class of 2029



Elnaz Ebrahimihoor, MD

Fellowship: Advanced Cardiac Imaging - Johns Hopkins University

Residency: Internal Medicine - Luminis Health

Medical School: Islamic Azad University Tehran Medical Unit (IAUTMU)

Following my internal medicine residency at Luminis Health, I pursued advanced fellowship training in cardiovascular imaging at Johns Hopkins University under the mentorship of Dr. João A.C. Lima. During my fellowship, I developed expertise in multimodality cardiac imaging, with particular focus on coronary CT angiography and cardiac MRI, and achieved Level II training in cardiac CT. I was actively involved in several clinical research initiatives and played a leading role in projects within the NIH-funded Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), focusing on myocardial fibrosis and cardiac amyloidosis using advanced cardiac MRI techniques, including T1 mapping. I have authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts, including multiple first-author manuscripts. My clinical and academic interests focus on leveraging advanced cardiac imaging to guide clinical decision-making across cardiomyopathies, electrophysiology, and interventional cardiology, with the goal of improving diagnostic precision, risk stratification, and individualized care for patients with complex cardiovascular disease.

I am passionate about advancing equitable cardiovascular care and was drawn to the HonorHealth Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship for its training environment that emphasizes both academic rigor and meaningful community impact.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy oil painting, hiking and traveling.



Samhita Palakodeti, MD

Residency: Internal Medicine - Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara

Medical School: University of California, San Diego

I was born in sunny San Diego and spent much of my childhood in El Centro, CA. I completed my undergraduate degree in Human Biology and medical school at UC San Diego, followed by Internal Medicine residency at Kaiser Permanente. My interest in cardiology is rooted in my upbringing, where I witnessed the impact of cardiovascular disease and disparities in access to care. My clinical interests include preventive cardiology, lifestyle medicine, and personalized risk reduction. My research during residency focused on valvular heart disease in pregnant women.

HonorHealth stands out to me for its strong camaraderie, mentorship, and commitment to patient-centered care. I also appreciate its expertise in both cardiometabolic medicine and women's heart health.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy going to new restaurants, hiking, and reading. I look forward to exploring all that Scottsdale has to offer!



Ornella Kouomegne Simo, MD, MHS

Fellowship: Advanced Cardiac Imaging - University of Utah
 Residency: Internal Medicine - George Washington University
 Medical School: Meharry Medical College School of Medicine

I grew up in Cameroon and later lived in Tennessee, where I completed most of my training, including undergraduate studies, medical school, and early residency training. I moved to the East Coast for Internal Medicine residency, then out West for an advanced cardiac imaging year. I was drawn to cardiology because of its blend of physiology, clinical complexity, longitudinal patient relationships, procedural opportunities, and the ability to make an immediate impact. My clinical interests include Electrophysiology and General Cardiology, with a focus in Cardiac Imaging.

What stood out to me most about HonorHealth was the strong clinical training, supportive culture, approachable faculty, and emphasis on fellow education. I was excited by the opportunity to train in a program that felt both rigorous and welcoming.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy traveling, exploring new restaurants, spending time with my significant other and my cat, and watching soccer.



Zachary Taylor, MD

Fellowship: Advanced Heart Failure, Pulmonary Hypertension, ICU Cardiology - University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Residency: Internal Medicine - Providence Portland Medical Center
 Medical School: Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

I grew up in Spokane, Washington and completed my undergraduate training at Washington State University, earning a degree in microbiology and a minor in Spanish. I stayed at Washington State University for medical school and then completed Internal Medicine Residency at Providence Portland Medical Center, a community hospital in Portland, Oregon. Following residency, I moved to Birmingham, Alabama where I pursued a year of training in Advanced Heart Failure, Cardiac Transplant Medicine, and Pulmonary Hypertension at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I chose to pursue a career in cardiology in part because of the impact that heart disease had on my close friends and family as I was growing up, but also because I feel cardiology offers a unique balance of rapidly evolving scientific advances, longitudinal patient care, and fascinating anatomy and physiology. My clinical interests within cardiology include heart failure and transplant, cardiogenic shock, and interventional cardiology.

I was drawn to HonorHealth's Cardiology Fellowship for its strong commitment to clinical excellence, hands-on training, and the development of well-rounded physicians within a supportive, mentorship-driven environment. Its dedication to serving a diverse community, along with an emphasis on both personal and professional growth, makes it an ideal setting to become the kind of cardiologist I aspire to be.

My hobbies include most anything outdoors, but specifically ATVing, camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. I also enjoy running, playing basketball and taking my energetic dogs on long walks.

Class of 2028



Paul Gilbert, MD

Residency: Internal Medicine - HonorHealth

Medical School: Loma Linda University School of Medicine

I grew up just outside of Boston, Massachusetts and made my way west for medical school in California before completing my residency in Arizona. I was drawn to medicine because I find deep fulfillment in using my skills to help others. I'm interested in interventional cardiology and my current research projects are focused on coronary microvasculature.

What stood out to me about HonorHealth is its commitment to developing well-rounded physicians, not only through strong clinical training, but also by fostering a culture of mentorship and support.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy spending time with my wife and our dogs. I also have a passion for hands-on projects, whether it's restoring a Z06 Corvette or building custom furniture, I love learning new skills and tackling ambitious challenges.



April Olson, MD, MPH

Residency: Internal Medicine - Banner University Medical Center

Medical School: University of Arizona College of Medicine

I was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. Up until this point, I have completed all of my education and training in Tucson. Along the way, I developed a strong interest in cardiology, particularly in non-invasive and echocardiography. I was drawn to how it blends physiology and real-time decision-making with the opportunity to build long-term patient relationships that can span years.

I was drawn to the HonorHealth Cardiology Fellowship Program because of its commitment to clinical excellence, strong mentorship, and dedication to serving a diverse patient population. Staying in the Southwest allows me to remain close to family while continuing to care for populations with a wide range of cardiovascular disease. I am confident that HonorHealth will provide the skills and foundation I need to become an exceptional clinical cardiologist.

When I'm not at work, you can usually find me at home listening to an audiobook and hanging out with my two cats.

**Bijan Rizi, MD, MPH**

Residency: Internal Medicine - University of Southern California/Los Angeles General Medical Center

Medical School: American University of the Caribbean

I was born and raised in Southern California and spent most of my life there until moving away for college and medical school. I chose to pursue a career in cardiology because of my passion for preventive care and public health. Seeing the profound impact cardiovascular disease has on individuals and communities inspired me to help patients prevent heart disease through early intervention, education, and lifestyle changes. I plan to pursue a career in either interventional cardiology or general cardiology with a focus in preventive cardiology, where I hope to combine personalized patient care with public health initiatives to

improve long-term outcomes.

I was drawn to HonorHealth for its strong sense of camaraderie among fellows and faculty, as well as the vast clinical exposure the program offers. I knew it would be the ideal environment to grow both personally and professionally.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy traveling, cooking, gardening, playing soccer, and hiking.

**Juliana Savic, MD**

Residency: Internal Medicine - Mayo Clinic Arizona

Medical School: University of New Mexico

I was born in Germany and immigrated to Albuquerque, New Mexico at a young age. I completed both my bachelor's degree in biochemistry and my medical degree at the University of New Mexico. Afterwards, I came to Phoenix, Arizona to complete my internal medicine residency program at Mayo Clinic Arizona. With my personal history as a refugee, I have a particular interest in healthcare disparities, equity, and health literacy. I am also passionate about women's health and gender disparities in medicine. The breadth of pathophysiology and rapidly evolving therapies within cardiology are what drew me to this field.

I chose HonorHealth to continue my training as they are known for excellent hands-on clinical training, and their staff seemed supportive so supportive and personable.

Some personal hobbies of mine are tennis, pickleball, and jigsaw puzzles.

Class of 2027



Michelle Sung, MD

Residency: Internal Medicine - University of California, Davis
Medical School: Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

I grew up in San Jose, California where my upbringing instilled in me the values of compassion, determination, and a desire for the pursuit of knowledge. I completed my undergraduate training at the University of California Davis, and after finishing medical school at Loyola University Chicago, I returned to UC Davis for my Internal Medicine Residency training. While in residency, I continued pursuing my passion for cardiology through research interests such as methamphetamine associated cardiomyopathy and leadless pacemakers. These projects have nurtured my interests such as electrophysiology which I am excited to explore further in fellowship.

It is a privilege to continue my training at HonorHealth in Arizona, where the strong focus on excellent patient care will shape me into the kind of cardiologist I aspire to be. I am grateful for the many learning opportunities the HonorHealth system will provide and the ability to train in close proximity to my family.

In my free time, I love to read, travel, hike and stay active, learn to cook new recipes, and laugh out loud to comedy shows!



Chelsea Marshall, MD

Residency: Internal Medicine - Mayo Clinic, Arizona
Medical School: University of Arizona

I was born in Vancouver, Canada but grew up in Tucson, Arizona for almost all of my life. I completed undergrad at the University of San Diego with a major in biochemistry. I went to medical school at the University of Arizona in Tucson and completed my Residency at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. I have loved the field of cardiology throughout my medical training and that passion only grew with my exposure in residency. I love the acuity of cardiology, the procedures, and also being able to form long term relationships with patients. I have an interest in interventional cardiology, heart failure and transplant but also really enjoy general cardiology.

I was drawn to HonorHealth for the cardiology fellowship as I wanted hands on training that would prepare me for a strong clinical career. The program leadership and faculty are truly dedicated to fellow education and training and there is significant camaraderie between everyone here.

My hobbies and interests include playing pickleball, board games, video games, traveling, scuba diving, skiing and hanging out with my cat.