



YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Physician Associate Program

Commencement Ceremony

December 7, 2020

PROGRAM

WELCOME and
INTRODUCTION OF
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER

Alexandria Garino, PhD, PA-C
Assistant Professor, Program Director

COMMENCEMENT
ADDRESS

Damien A. Fair, PhD, PA-C
*Redleaf Endowed Director, Masonic Institute for
the Developing Brain Professor, Institute of Child
Development, College of Education and Human
Development Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
Medical School University of Minnesota*

REMARKS &
CONFERRAL OF
DEGREES

Nancy J. Brown, MD
*Jean and David W. Wallace Dean of the
Yale School of Medicine and C.N.H. Long
Professor of Internal Medicine*

READING OF
NAMES

Elizabeth Roessler, MMSc, PA-C
*Assistant Professor
Director of Didactic Education*

PROGRAM AWARD
PRESENTATIONS

Rita Rienzo, MMSc, PA-C
*Assistant Professor
Director of Clinical Education*

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH
*Assistant Professor
Director of Research Education*

STUDENT ADDRESS

Zachary Gibson, BS, Class of 2020

STUDENT AWARD
PRESENTATIONS

Joseph Miller, BS, Class of 2020
Madeline Kratz, BA, Class of 2020

OATH

Class of 2020

CLOSING

David Brissette, MMSc, PA-C
*Assistant Professor
Associate Program Director*

HONORED GUESTS

Nancy J. Brown, MD

*Jean and David W. Wallace Dean of the Yale School of Medicine
and C.N.H. Long Professor of Internal Medicine*

Richard Belitsky, MD

*Associate Professor of Medical Education
Deputy Dean for Education*

Jessica Illuzzi, MD, MS

*Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
Associate Deputy Dean for Education*

Damien A. Fair, PhD, PA-C

*Redleaf Endowed Director,
Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
Professor, Institute of Child Development,
College of Education and Human Development
Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
Medical School University of Minnesota*

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Damien A. Fair, PA-C, PhD

*Redleaf Endowed Director,
Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
Professor, Institute of Child Development,
College of Education and Human Development
Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
Medical School University of Minnesota*

Dr. Damien Fair is originally from Winona, Minnesota. He obtained his B.A. degree in 1998 from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and his Master of Medical Science degree in 2001 from the Physician Associate Program at the Yale School of Medicine. From 2001-2003, Dr. Fair practiced as a physician assistant in the neurology department at Yale New Haven Hospital under the direction of Lawrence Brass, M.D. This led him to pursue further education in the Neuroscience Graduate Program at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis under the primary guidance of Bradley Schlaggar, M.D., Ph.D. and Steven Petersen, Ph.D. Dr. Fair completed postdoctoral training at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) with Joel Nigg Ph.D., and Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D. where he spent 10 years as the principal investigator of the Developmental Cognition and Neuroimaging Labs and a champion for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Dr. Fair is currently a founding Co-Director of the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain (MiDB) and Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Fair's research focuses on mechanisms and principles that underlie child and adolescent brain development. The majority of his work uses functional MRI and resting state functional connectivity MRI to assess typical and atypical populations. His research also focuses on testing the feasibility of using various

functional and structural MRI techniques in translational studies of developmental neuropsychiatric disorders like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism. Dr. Fair's work cuts across both human and animal models using non-invasive tools as a bridge between species. He has published more than 100 articles in high-impact research journals including Nature Neuroscience, Molecular Psychiatry, Neuron, PLoS, PNAS, Science, and Psychological Science. His research has been funded by grants from the Gates Foundation, McDonnell Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. He has an extensive international network of collaborators. Dr. Fair has received many awards for his work, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers Issued by President Barack Obama and the White House.

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE 2020

Mara Anderson★

University of Oregon - Eugene, Bachelor of Science,
Human Physiology

Thesis Title: *Vaginal Progesterone Supplementation on Preterm Birth in Women Following Cervical Conization*

Corrie Asseo

Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Health Science

Thesis Title: *Administration of Canagliflozin for the Remission of Metabolic Syndrome in Nondiabetic Adults*

Tracy Buechele

Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Health Science

Thesis Title: *Prenatal Marijuana Use and Potential Adverse Neonatal Outcomes*

Meghan Burns★

Georgetown University, Bachelor of Science, Human Biology

Thesis Title: *Community Doula Support for Promoting Healthy Gestational Weight Gain: A Randomized Controlled Trial*

Tinley Chen★

New York University, Bachelor of Arts, Biology

Thesis Title: *Evaluating the Utility of Atorvastatin for Best Medical Therapy in Stable Aortic Dissection*

Giavanna Chirico★

Villanova University, Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry/
Neuroscience

Thesis Title: *Magnesium Exposure in Very Preterm Neonates and Adverse Gastrointestinal Outcomes*

Jessica Collier

Bentley University, Bachelor of Science, Economics

Thesis Title: *Hormone Therapy in Recently Menopausal Women with Cardiovascular Risk Factors*

Indumathi Dhakshinamurthy★

University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering

Thesis Title: *A Comparative Study of Novel Stem Cell Therapy-Based Treatments for Diabetic Foot Ulcers*

Nicholas Drews

Eastern Michigan University, Bachelor of Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *The Association Between Opioid Prescriptions and Suicidal Ideation in Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans*

Jennifer Farren★

University of California - Berkeley, Bachelor of Arts, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biochemistry

Thesis Title: *Utilizing Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in the Management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease*

Nina Fiellin

University of California - Berkeley, Bachelor of Arts, Public Health

Thesis Title: *Hospital-Acquired Infection Outcomes Under a Patient-Centered Hand Hygiene Initiative*

Sarah Fittro

Lehigh University, Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience

Thesis Title: *Using Color Doppler Ultrasound to Promote Exercise in Adults with Peripheral Artery Disease*

Kaitlin Fitzgerald

Colby College, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Thesis Title: *Efficacy of Rhythmic Auditory Stimulation on Ataxia and Functional Dependence Post-Cerebellar Stroke*

Timothy Fong★

Villanova University, Bachelor of Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *Aerobic Exercise: An Adjunctive Therapy for Buprenorphine/Naloxone Retention in Opioid Use Disorder*

Melissa Giblin

Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Health Science

Thesis Title: *Case Management at Hospital Discharge to Decrease Emergency Department Use in Homeless Adults*

Zachary Gibson

Brigham Young University, Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience

Thesis Title: *Videogame Intervention for Improved Control of Type 1 Diabetes in Adolescents*

Shikha Goyal★

University of Denver, Bachelor of Science, Biology/Psychology

Thesis Title: *Vitamin D Supplementation in Fitzpatrick Skin Types IV-VI as Malignant Melanoma Adjuvant Treatment*

Jessica Hockla★

University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Engineering

Thesis Title: *Increasing Distal-Proximal Temperature Gradient with Bed Socks to Improve Sleep in Analog Astronauts*

Christina Jacobson

Quinnipiac University, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science

Thesis Title: *Withholding Anticoagulation in Subsegmental Pulmonary Embolism: A Randomized Non-Inferiority Trial*

Kamran Javadi◆

University Of North Carolina, Bachelor of Arts, Exercise Science

Thesis Title: *Cardiovascular Outcomes in Hypertension Defined by Proof-BP using NHANES 2015-2016*

J. Morgan Jones

Wittenberg University, Bachelor of Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *Botulinum Injection in the Tensor Fasciae Latae as an Adjunct Treatment for Iliotibial Band Syndrome*

Jessica Kohler

University of California - San Diego, Bachelor of Science,
Biology

Thesis Title: *Early Thoracentesis and Follow-up in Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Patients*

Madeline Kratz

Vanderbilt University, Bachelor of Arts, Medicine, Health and Society

Thesis Title: *Platelet-Rich Plasma for Grade II and III Medial Collateral Ligament Tears in Patients Aged 18-45*

Eric Lau ★

The City University of New York - Hunter College, Bachelor of Arts and Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *Exparel Compared to Standard Bupivacaine for Postoperative Analgesia Following Lumbar Spine Fusion*

Melissa Ling★

McMaster University, Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry

Thesis Title: *The Impact of Peer Education on Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery Readmission Rates*

John McCarty II

Central Michigan University, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science

Thesis Title: *Optimal Anti-Thrombotic Regimen in Watchman Therapy*

Joseph Miller

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Bachelor of Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *Topical Imiquimod as Primary Therapy Prior to Mohs Surgery for Penile Intraepithelial Neoplasia*

Elisabeth Miranda

James Madison University, Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Thesis Title: *Medical Qigong Versus Exercise on Sleep*

Disturbance and Quality of Life in Breast Cancer Survivors

Victor Ortiz

University of Central Florida, Bachelor of Science,

Interdisciplinary Studies

Thesis Title: *Educational Intervention in Anticoagulation-Naïve*

Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

Rachel Rose

University of Colorado - Boulder, Bachelor of Arts, Physiology

Thesis Title: *A Structured Airway Clearance and Exercise Program*

to Improve Clinical Outcomes in Cystic Fibrosis

Meg Schultheiss★

University of Colorado - Boulder, Bachelor of Arts, German

Thesis Title: *Consider Palliative Care: A Decision Aid to Improve*

Palliative Care Knowledge

Meghan Sowers★

Master's College and Seminary, Bachelor of Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *Randomized Study of Postpartum Metformin Use to*

Augment Breastmilk Supply

Elena Sullivan

Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Health Science

Thesis Title: *Promoting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Among People*

Who Inject Drugs Accessing Syringe Exchange Programs

Jona Tanguay

Tufts University, Bachelor of Arts and Science, Biology

Thesis Title: *Chemsex Screening and Intervention Training for*

Urban Primary Care Providers

Madison Walsh

University of California - San Diego, Bachelor of Science,
Human Biology

Thesis Title: *Combination of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression*

Mia Wigley

New York University, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Thesis Title: *Canagliflozin To Slow Renal Insufficiency Progression
in Non-Diabetic Chronic Kidney Disease*

Anton Yanker★

University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Bachelor of Science,
Emergency Med-Tech

Thesis Title: *Liposomal Amphotericin B and Flucytosine Versus
Micafungin in Treatment of Candida Endocarditis*

Alexandra Zhakov

Brandeis University, Bachelor of Arts, Health Science

Thesis Title: *Effect of Prehospital Echocardiography in Cardiac
Arrest to Augment Chest Compression Positioning*

Jessica Zheng

Brown University, Bachelor of Arts, Biology/Visual and
Performing Arts

Thesis Title: *Video Colposcopy for Decreasing Anxiety in a Low-
Income Setting*

Drew Zimmerman★

Boston University, Bachelor of Arts, Neuroscience

Thesis Title: *Cerebral Oxygenation Monitoring by Near-Infrared
Spectroscopy in Severe Traumatic Brain Injury*

★ Pending the completion of all requirements

◆ Joint degree with Master of Public Health

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

(selected by Yale PA Program Faculty)

Dr. John P. Hayslett Award For Overall Academic Excellence

\$1,000 monetary award

This award was established in memory of the Physician Associate Program's former Medical Director. Dr. John Hayslett was the founding chief of the Section of Nephrology, a prolific scholar, educator, and champion of the PA profession. This award is presented to a student who achieved academic excellence through all phases of the curriculum, embraced extracurricular opportunities, and whose performance exemplified dedication to patient care.

Yale Physician Associate Program Leadership Award

\$1,000 monetary award

The mission of the Yale Physician Associate Program is to educate individuals to become outstanding clinicians and to foster leaders who will serve their communities and advance the PA profession. We recognize that leadership can take many forms, including service to others and scholarship. This award is presented to the student who went beyond the academic requirements to motivate and inspire others.

AWARDS

(selected by the Class of 2020)

OUTSTANDING DIDACTIC COURSE AWARD

for dedication and excellence in the classroom

Matthew Grant, MD

*Assistant Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases)
Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency*

OUTSTANDING PRECEPTOR AWARD

for dedication and excellence in clinical education

Ebony Dix, MD

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL SITE AWARD

clinical rotation site that provides exemplary clinical teaching

Stony Creek Urgent Care

JACK COLE SOCIETY AWARD

for significant contributions in support of the PA profession

Charlene Justin, MMSc, PA-C

CLASS OF 2020 AWARD

for support and dedication to the Yale PA Program
and the Class of 2020

Megan Pendagast, BA

Yale Physician Associate Program

HONORS THESIS PROJECT RECIPIENTS

Tracy Buechele

Prenatal Marijuana Use and Potential Adverse Neonatal Outcomes

Tinley Chen

Evaluating the Utility of Atorvastatin for Best Medical Therapy in Stable Aortic Dissection

Giavanna Chirico

Magnesium Exposure in Very Preterm Neonates and Adverse Gastrointestinal Outcomes

Sarah Fittro

Using Color Doppler Ultrasound to Promote Exercise in Adults with Peripheral Artery Disease

Shikha Goyal

Vitamin D Supplementation in Fitzpatrick Skin Types IV-VI as Malignant Melanoma Adjuvant Treatment

Jessica Hockla

Increasing Distal-Proximal Temperature Gradient with Bed Socks to Improve Sleep in Analog Astronauts

Christina Jacobson

Withholding Anticoagulation in Subsegmental Pulmonary Embolism: A Randomized Non-Inferiority Trial

Jessica Kohler

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HONORS THESIS PROJECT RECIPIENTS

Madeline Kratz

Platelet-Rich Plasma for Grade II and III Medial Collateral Ligament Tears in Patients Aged 18-45

Eric Lau

Exparel Compared to Standard Bupivacaine for Postoperative Analgesia Following Lumbar Spine Fusion

Victor Ortiz

Educational Intervention in Anticoagulation-Naïve Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

Elena Sullivan

Promoting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Among People Who Inject Drugs Accessing Syringe Exchange Programs

Jona Tanguay

Chemsex Screening and Intervention Training for Urban Primary Care Providers

Madison Walsh

Combination of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression

CLASS OF 2020 OFFICERS

Class President	Joseph Miller
Class Vice President	Madeline Kratz
Class Communicators	J. Morgan Jones Vincent Ortiz
Social Chairs	Kaitlin Fitzgerald Victor Ortiz
AAPA Representatives	Kamran Javadi Elisabeth Mirenda
ConnAPA Representatives	Jessica Collier Alexandra Zhakov
CT PAF Representative	Christina Jacobson
GPSS Senator	Eric Lau
External Affairs	Indumathi Dhakshinamurthy Melissa Ling
Volunteer/Community Outreach	Elena Sullivan

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Faculty

Alexandria Garino, PHD, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Program Director

Mark Perazella, MD

Professor of Medicine, Medical Director

David Brissette, MMSc, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Associate Program Director and Director of Admissions

Courtney Fankhanel, MMSc, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Associate Director of Clinical Education

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Director of Research Education

Rita Rienzo, MMSc, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical Education

Elizabeth Roessler, MMSc, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Director of Didactic Education

Jonathan Weber, MA, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Associate Director of Didactic Education

Administrative Staff

Chaunell Feliciano, MS, RN

Associate Director of Administration

Wynne Bottomley, BA

Curriculum Coordinator, Didactic Team

Meridith Cayer, MS

Associate Director of Admissions, Registrar

Peg Gallagher, BS

Senior Administrative Assistant

Alison Garb, MBA

Program Analyst

Megan Pendagast, BA

Research Program Manager

YALE PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE PROGRAM
Professional Oath

I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:

- I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.
- I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.
- I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.
- I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.
- I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.
- I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.
- I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.
- I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.
- I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.
- I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.
- I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.

