

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows Class of 2024

New Haven Track



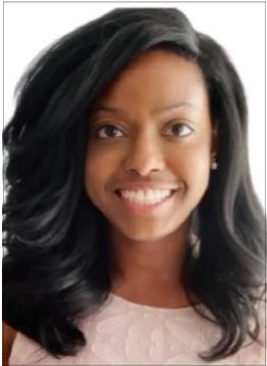
Matthew Johnson, MD is a partner, new father, dog lover, amateur golfer, and woodworker, born and raised in Durham, Connecticut. Matt worked as a resident advisor, is an AmeriCorps alumnus (Community Health Center, Inc.), past member of Barrow Neurological Institute/St. Joseph's Hospital Ethics Committee, and current assistant editor and reviewer at *The Harvard Review of Psychiatry*. Matt received his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine and concurrently completed additional Graduate School studies in Bioethics. For residency, he attended The Beth Israel Deaconess Harvard Psychiatry Program. In his PGY4 year, Matt served as chief resident of the Consult Liaison and Emergency Department psychiatry services. Clinically, Matt is interested in bioethics as well as mentalizing and dynamic modalities of psychotherapy. His research interests include the role of neuroinflammation in childhood psychiatric disease primarily in thought, perception, and cognition.



Allison (a-li-sin) Lawler (law-ler), MD, spent most of her life in the state of Hawaii before starting her medical career. She began her Master of Education in Teaching in 2007 and transitioned from being a high school math teacher to a learning center director before leaving for Chicago Medical School in 2014. Her devotion for youth and passion for teaching/leadership continue as she has an interest in school-based mental health and in academic/administrative medicine. She also takes a special interest in teaching and mentoring students and residents. She stayed at Chicago Medical School for residency, where, as chief resident, she advocated for residents and organized/participated in multiple activities involving members of the community. She was inducted into both the Gold Humanism and AOA honor societies for her efforts and collegiality. Her past and current research endeavors include CBPAR with youth. In her spare time, she enjoys teaching/attending fitness classes, being outdoors, and spending time with her husband and new son.



Maria Motlagh, MD, Maria Motlagh was born and raised in Tehran, Iran a city with high mountains where she practiced her interest in hiking and backpacking. Maria completed medical school in her home county where she developed an interest in neurodevelopmental disorders. During her Psychiatry residency in Tehran University, she joined a cross-national project between Iran, Turkey, and Yale Child Study Center (YCSC). This was a collaborative project between Dr. James Leckman and Dr. Matt State' Lab to identify consanguineous Iranian and Turkish kindreds with severe Tourette Syndrome, searching for recessive loci using a technique called homozygosity mapping. She continued her research by joining the Yale Child Study Center as research fellow and got involved in multiple studies including neuro-physiological studies in Tourette Syndrome, OCD, and the role of prenatal risk factors on the development of ADHD. Maria completed her residency program at Yale Department of Psychiatry and took a one-year fellowship in Public Psychiatry Young Adult Services at Yale. After completing the fellowship, she was selected to be the Chief of Behavioral Health Department for Connecticut Institute for Communities (CIFIC). During her leadership of the CIFIC, she developed a Pediatric and Adolescent Behavioral Health program within the primary care system and was able to expand youth mental health services in the local school system. When not working, she enjoys literature, singing and exploring new hiking trails with her 8 years old daughter.



Onyi (Own-ye) Okeke (Okay-kay), MD, recently graduated from Consultation-Liaison (C-L) Psychiatry Fellowship at Yale University. During her fellowship training, she was accepted into the Connecticut State Medical Society's Young Physician Leadership Curriculum. The program provides young physicians with tools to develop leadership, physician advocacy and is designed to enhance the physicians' abilities to influence practice and policy development. She completed her first three years of general psychiatry residency training at Georgetown University. She was awarded a Clinical Research Fellowship at the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) for her 4th year of residency. At NIMH she collaborated with members of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) to launch, "A Longitudinal Study of COVID-19 Sequelae and Immunity". NIMH's contribution is to elucidate the neuropsychiatric consequences of surviving COVID-19. While at NIMH, she served on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center Ethics Committee and the NIMH Disparities Team. The goal of the Disparities team is to increase mental health disparities research at NIMH. Dr. Okeke completed her undergraduate training at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and then attended Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for medical school. As an undergraduate and medical student, she mentored and tutored historically underserved and underrepresented students pursuing careers in the STEM fields. She also volunteered at a medical mission health fair in Nigeria, to teach community members how to manage chronic medical problems. Dr. Okeke's experience in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, has given her specialty training in multi-disciplinary communication, psychoeducation, collaboration, and advocacy. She is pursuing a subsequent fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to learn the skills required to address the communication gap between primary care providers, community members, and psychiatrists. Her career mission is to improve access to high-quality mental health care and reduce behavioral health disparities, across the life span, through effective system's based practice.



Sherab (Share- rub) Tsheringla (Sharing-lah), MBBS, MD, finds working with families the most meaningful part of his job. He was a clinician and researcher in child and adolescent psychiatry and neurodevelopmental disorders in South Asia, before coming to the United States. He was involved in developing of one of the first child and adolescent training fellowships in the Indian subcontinent and several school mental health programs. With additional training in child abuse at UCSF and the Child Advocacy Center/ Trauma Rape Recovery Center in San Francisco, he has worked extensively on developing trauma informed systems for child sexual abuse in India. His advocacy work included organizing training workshops across diverse groups from schoolteachers to pediatricians to members of the police and consulting for the district Juvenile Magistrate. As a forensic evaluator for the Juvenile Justice Board and district Childcare facility inspection committee member, he recognized the potential for systemic change. While he acknowledges the primacy of his training in family therapy and behavioral therapies shaping his approach to interventions, he integrates both developmental and trauma-informed lens in his practice. At the University of Minnesota, with a developmental framework, he was able to appreciate the lifespan nature of conditions like ADHD and Borderline Personality Disorder, proposing changes in treatment approaches. As a Hilibrand postdoc research fellow and Senior resident in Neuromodulation and Interventional Psychiatry training and research, he has been engaged in Autism and neuromodulation research during his psychiatry residency at Yale. He plans on continuing to explore translational neuroscience in autism and depression, currently investigating electrophysiological markers and glutamatergic transmission with transcranial magnetic stimulation. He believes true translational science is equitable. He is otherwise a wanna be professional chef who likes music, movies and comics and can be irrationally fanatic about sporting franchises (Skol/YNWA) and is looking to form a bowling team. Sherab lives in New Haven with his partner, beagle and kids.

Albert J. Solnit Children's Hospital South Track



Brittany (Brit-nee) Atuahene((Uh-too-uh-hen-ee) Robinson (Rah-bin-suhn), MD, is a Ghanaian American who was born and raised in South Jersey. She attended the University of Pennsylvania as a Psychology major, where she found her passion for mental health. She was a volunteer active listener for a student-run hotline and was part of the executive board which initiated a necessary conversation about mental health and the perfectionist campus culture. After completing a post-bac and working as a clinic research coordinator, Brittany attended the University of Pittsburgh for medical school, with the intent of becoming a psychiatrist. Brittany was thrilled to couples match to Yale for residency with her husband. In residency, she pursued her interests by joining the department's wellness task force and spending her PGY-3 outpatient year at Yale University's counseling center. In addition, Brittany was awarded the APA/SAMHSA Minority Fellowship award and is working on a project which focuses on mental health supports for Black undergraduate students attending predominantly white institutions. Her current interests in psychiatry include college mental health, youth suicidality, physician wellness, and psychotherapy. For fun, she enjoys exploring new restaurants, watching musicals, and travelling to spend time with family and friends.



Jamila (Ja-me-la) Cutliff Hokanson (Ho-can-son), MD, MBA, MHA, is a native of Saginaw, MI and mother to 4 young boys. She is currently a Program-wide Chief Psychiatry Resident at Yale. She has a background in medicine, business management, and quality improvement. She has led global and community organizational change initiatives, including local and national non-profit startups aimed at addressing education and health disparities. Her clinical interests include working with adolescents and young adults healing from trauma, supporting research in psychedelic assisted psychotherapy with a particular focus on people of color and young adults, and leveraging integrative psychiatry treatment modalities. She is a 2021 fellow of the integrative psychiatry institute, a trainee for MAPS-sponsored MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for the treatment of PTSD, and a Yale research study psychiatrist for Psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy for the treatment of OCD and Depression. She is looking forward to starting her child fellowship at Solnit South.



Joseph Knoble, MD, his educational journey has spanned from Charlottesville, Chicago and now back to Roanoke in his home state, Virginia. Throughout, these stops have been bound by a common thread: to pursue meaningful, academic ventures that push the boundaries of my comfort zone. While all training physicians seek their niche, he has found his passion in system-based approaches, working to found and co-chair my residency's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Now, starting his Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center, he will look to continue exploring the intersection of policy and psychiatry as well as the relationship between metabolic health and mental

health. In between, you will also find my head chock-full of ideas about my next culinary foray, interior design dilemma or the latest Lakers' basketball misadventure... to list a few!

Albert J. Solnit Integrated Adult & Child Psychiatry Residents



Emily Behling, MD, is an incoming resident physician in the Albert J. Solnit Integrated Adult/Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Program. Emily grew up in rural northeastern Connecticut. She received her B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Connecticut and her M.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Prior to entering medical school, Emily worked as a mental health worker on the inpatient adolescent psychiatry unit at Natchaug Hospital. During medical school, Emily became involved in clinical and research work at the Yale Child Study Center. She conducts research in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Bloch and is involved clinically at the Yale Tic Disorder/OCD Clinic. Her research interests involve using advanced meta-analytic techniques and clinical trials to improve the understanding and pharmacological treatments of conditions affecting children and adults including Tourette syndrome, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and anxiety disorders. In her spare time, Emily enjoys reading classic novels, cross-country skiing and cooking.



Jacob Lister, MD, PhD, was born at Yale-New Haven Hospital, grew up in Guilford, CT, and went to high school in New Haven, before his family moved to Dallas, TX for eight years. He went to college in Middlebury, Vermont, and lived at various points in Istanbul, Boston, Colorado, Montreal, New York, and Dallas, before returning to New Haven in 2012. He studied philosophy and Middle Eastern political history as an undergraduate. He spent a year and half trying his hand at creative writing, before having an epiphany that he wanted to go to medical school. While taking my pre-medical courses, primarily at UT Dallas, he did clinical research in pediatric depression with Graham Emslie, MD, and then worked in a basic science laboratory studying schizophrenia with Carol Tamminga, MD, both at UT Southwestern. In medical school, he did his graduate research in the laboratory of Michael Crair, PhD, using in vivo wide-field imaging to study genes involved in cortical circuit development and neuropsychiatric disorders. During residency, he plans to apply analytic approaches for assessing large-scale brain dynamics to pediatric psychiatry, especially in the context of schizophrenia, depression, and suicidality. He is particularly interested in “interventional” treatments, including ketamine, rTMS, and ECT, and how these approaches can be integrated with psychotherapeutic techniques to maximize their potential and sustain clinical response. Outside of medicine, his interests include playing and watching soccer, dancing to live music, reading and writing, medical school theater, and spending time with family and friends, old and new.