PROGRAM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Alexandria Garino, PhD, PA-C
Assistant Professor
Program Director

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Rita Rienzo, MMSc, PA-C
Alumni Engagement Manager
Yale Physician Associate Program

REMARKS & CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Nancy J. Brown, MD
Jean and David W. Wallace Dean
Yale School of Medicine
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
Courtney Fankhanel, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor
Director of Clinical Education
Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Director of Research Education

STUDENT ADDRESS
Robert Johnston, MA, Class of 2021

STUDENT AWARD PRESENTATIONS
Abner Arias-Olson, Class of 2021
Chunie Johnson, Class of 2021

OATH
Class of 2021

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

Jessica Illuzzi, MD, MS
Deputy Dean for Education and Harold W. Jockers
Professor of Medical Education
Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Reproductive Sciences

Rita Rienzo, MMSC, PA-C
Alumni Engagement Manager
Yale Physician Associate Program
Rita Rienzo is the newly appointed Manager for Alumni Engagement at the Yale Physician Associate Program. Prior to undertaking this new role, she served as the Director of Clinical Education for the Program for 14 years.

Rita holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Fordham University in the Bronx, New York and a Master of Medical Science degree from the Emory University PA Program in Atlanta, Georgia, class of 1994. After graduation, she practiced Primary Care at an urban clinic in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Two years later, she decided to make a specialty change to Surgery and was accepted into the Yale/Norwalk Hospital Postgraduate Residency for PAs.

Upon graduation from the Residency in 1998, Rita joined the General Surgery Service at Yale New Haven Hospital where she practiced as a staff PA for several years and then served as the Manager of the Surgery PAs for several more years. In 2007, she was invited to join the faculty at the Yale Physician Associate Program as a Clinical Coordinator. There she had the opportunity to work closely with the second-year PA students as they navigated their clinical rotations, electives, and job searches. She retired from her position as the Director of Clinical Education in June of this year. It was the best job she could have imagined.

Outside of work, Rita serves as a volunteer with the Food Pantry of North Branford and with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services in New Haven. She has also been elected as the incoming Secretary for the Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation, which provides scholarships to PA students in the state.

In her new role as the Alumni Engagement Manager, Rita is delighted that she will have the opportunity to continue to be in contact with all of her former students.
MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE 2021

Abner Arias-Olson
Bethel University, Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences
Thesis Title: Drama Therapy as a Quality-of-Life Intervention for Persons with Dementia and Family Caregivers

Rachel Blumel
Weber State University, Bachelor of Science, Respiratory Therapy
Thesis Title: Accuracy of the “Thumb-Palm Test” in the Detection of Ascending Aortic Aneurysm Disease

Isabel Burick
University of Maryland, College Park, Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences
Thesis Title: Computer Aided Diagnosis with Ultrasound to Improve Detection of Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Hannah Carson
University of California, Irvine, Bachelor of Science, Public Health
Thesis Title: Equity and Use of Telehealth Modalities Among People Living with HIV During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kathy Chen
University of California, Berkeley, Bachelor of Arts, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biochemistry
Thesis Title: Efficacy of Educational Seminars in Increasing Skin Cancer Screening in Asian Americans

Jaime Conway
Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry
Thesis Title: Tucked In: Weighted Blankets to Improve Sleep in Intensive Care Unit Patients

Alecia Cunniff
Villanova University, Bachelor of Science, Biology
Thesis Title: Recorded Maternal Song to Reduce Crying Duration in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Maria Dalzell  
Seattle University, Bachelor of Arts, Biology  
Thesis Title: *Cost of Treatment Conversations Between Primary Care Clinicians and Patients Living with Diabetes*

Kyle Deaver  
University of Vermont, Bachelor of Science, Environmental Studies  
Thesis Title: *The Clinical Role and Activity of Advanced Clinicians in the Out-of-Hospital Environment*

Brenden Feingerts  
University of California, Santa Barbara, Bachelor of Arts, History  
Thesis Title: *Efficacy of QuikClot Combat Gauze When Used by Immediate Responders in a Simulated Gunshot Wound*

Tyler Godek  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Bachelor of Science, Psychology/Public Health  
Thesis Title: *Effects of Dialectical Behavior Therapy on Body Modification in Borderline Personality Disorder*

Leanne Gonzalez  
Hunter College of the City University of New York, Bachelor of Science, Human Biology  
Thesis Title: * Culturally-Adapted Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Bilingual Latinx with Depressive Symptoms*

Veronica Guirguis  
Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience  
Thesis Title: *Vitamin E Alpha-Tocopherols to Prevent Recurrent Stroke in Patients with a Minor Neurovascular Event*

Brittney Gunneson  
Sacred Heart University, Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Thesis Title: *Behavioral and Emotional Changes Across COVID-19 School Experiences in Children and Adolescents*
Linda Guo  
Pennsylvania State University, Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Thesis Title: Association Between Parity and Restless Legs Syndrome in a Population of US Women

Ashley Harris  
University of Dayton, Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Thesis Title: Effect of Aerobic Exercise on Seizure Frequency in Children with Comorbid Epilepsy and Migraine

Ariana Hartoonian  
California Baptist University, Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Thesis Title: Diet and Strength Training Interventions to Decrease Insulin Resistance in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

Dao Ho  
University of Missouri-Kansas City, Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry  
Thesis Title: Understanding Palliative Care Delivery in a Ugandan Emergency Department and United States Emergency Department

Katrina Jimenez  
Florida International University, Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences  
Thesis Title: Preventing Postpartum Preeclampsia with Low-Dose Aspirin: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Chunie Johnson  
Brigham Young University, Bachelor of Applied Science, Exercise Science  
Thesis Title: A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study of Visual Perceptions of Acral Lentiginous Melanoma

Robert Johnston*  
Central Washington University, Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology  
San Jose State University, Master of Arts, Anthropology  
Thesis Title: Healthy Aging in Rural Guangdong Province, China
Carina Leggio
Trinity College, Bachelor of Science, Biology
Thesis Title: Efficacy of Rimegepant Plus Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Monoclonal Antibody for Migraine

Jasmine Li
Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Health Science
Thesis Title: Impact of Social Isolation on Depressive Symptoms in Perinatal Women During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Megan McCauley
Saint Michael’s Collage, Bachelor of Science, Biology
Thesis Title: Coronary Angiogram Plus Invasive Physiologic Tests in Women with Nonobstructive Coronary Dysfunction

Allison Miller
University of Notre Dame, Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience
Thesis Title: Complications of Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 Use in Open Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion

Jenna Moscarelli
Boston College, Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Thesis Title: Guidelines for Influenza Vaccination Uptake in Pregnant Women: A Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial

Kevin Mugno
Creighton University, Bachelor of Science, Exercise Science
Thesis Title: Metformin and Statin’s Effect on Prostate Cancer Risk in Diabetics with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia

David Seth Murphy
University of Nevada, Reno, Bachelor of Science, Immunology
Thesis Title: Back to Basics: The Effects of Buffered Crystalloids on Mortality in the Setting of Severe Trauma

Monica Narsolis
Loyola University Chicago, Bachelor of Science, Biology
Thesis Title: Video Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to Prevent Depression in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Nicholas Nielsen  
Brigham Young University, Bachelor of Science, Microbiology  
Thesis Title: *Spiritual Direction Practice in Physician Associates*

Madeline Perez  
University of California, Davis, Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences  
Thesis Title: *Sexual Function in Women Undergoing Risk Reducing Salpingo-Oophorectomy With or Without Hysterectomy*

Samantha Quinn  
University of Maryland, College Park, Bachelor of Science, Public Health  
Thesis Title: *The Effect of Doula Support on the Rate of Cesarean Section in Low-Risk Pregnant Black Women*

Madeline Sadlowski  
University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science, Pathology  
Thesis Title: *Computerized Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Adolescents and Young Adults with Substance Use Disorder*

Stephanie Salas  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Bachelor of Science in Education, Kinesiology  
Thesis Title: *The Use of Surgical Prehabilitation to Augment Enhanced Recovery Protocols in Gynecologic Oncology*

Peter Stampfel  
The State University of New York, Stony Brook, Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Thesis Title: *The Effect of Plasma Levels of Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 on Intracranial Aneurysm Progression*

Siena Tice  
Northeastern University, Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences  
Thesis Title: *Training Pediatricians to Support Families of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth*
Elizabeth Togneri
University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Arts, Comparative Literature
Thesis Title: Sudarshan Kriya Yoga and Alteration in Depression Severity and Default Mode Network Connectivity

Winifred Tung
Rice University, Bachelor of Arts, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Thesis Title: The Effects of Yoga Versus Mindfulness on Anxiety in Individuals with Parkinson’s Disease

Thomas Vulaj*
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology
Thesis Title: Early Use of Vaginal Progesterone and Cervical Pessary to Reduce Preterm Birth Rates in Twins

Annabelle Wilcox
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Bachelor of Arts, Biology
Thesis Titles: Navigating Barriers to Affording and Obtaining Insulin and Diabetes Supplies
Racial Disparities in Diabetes Distress and Technology Use in Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes

* Pending the completion of all requirements
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 2021)

OUTSTANDING DIDACTIC COURSE AWARD
for dedication and excellence in the classroom

William Stewart, PhD
Professor of Surgery, Section Chief of Gross Anatomy

OUTSTANDING PRECEPTOR AWARD
for dedication and excellence in clinical education

Joy Reyes, MD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL SITE AWARD
clinical rotation site that provides exemplary clinical teaching

St. Mary’s Primary Care

JACK COLE SOCIETY AWARD
for significant contributions in support of the PA profession

Maria Dalzell, Class of 2021

CLASS OF 2021 AWARD
for support and dedication to the Yale PA Program
and the Class of 2021

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Director of Research Education
HONORS THESIS PROJECT RECIPIENTS

Kathy Chen
Efficacy of Educational Seminars in Increasing Skin Cancer Screening in Asian Americans

Jaime Conway
Tucked In: Weighted Blankets to Improve Sleep in Intensive Care Unit Patients

Alecia Cunniff
Recorded Maternal Song to Reduce Crying Duration in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Maria Dalzell
Coast of Treatment Conversations Between Primary Care Clinicians and Patients Living with Diabetes

Brittney Gunneson
Behavioral and Emotional Changes Across COVID-19 School Experiences in Children and Adolescents

Ashley Harris
Effect of Aerobic Exercise on Seizure Frequency in Children with Comorbid Epilepsy and Migraine

Ariana Hartoonian
Diet and Strength Training Interventions to Decrease Insulin Resistance in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome
HONORS THESIS PROJECT RECIPIENTS

Robert Johnston
Healthy Aging in Rural Guangdong Province, China

Carina Leggio
Efficacy of Rimegepant Plus Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Monoclonal Antibody for Migraine

Allison Miller
Complications of Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 Use in Open Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion

Monica Narsolis
Video Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to Prevent Depression in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Stephanie Salas
The Use of Surgical Prehabilitation to Augment Enhanced Recovery Protocols in Gynecologic Oncology

Annabelle Wilcox
Navigating Barriers to Affording and Obtaining Insulin and Diabetes Supplies
Racial Disparities in Diabetes Distress and Technology Use in Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Presidents</td>
<td>Abner Arias-Olson, Chunie Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity and Inclusion Chairs</td>
<td>Leanne Gonzalez, Dao Ho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Communicators</td>
<td>Abner Arias-Olson, Nicholas Nielsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Chairs</td>
<td>Siena Tice, Annabelle Wilcox</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAPA Representatives</td>
<td>Samantha Quinn, Megan McCauley</td>
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<td>Volunteer/Community Outreach</td>
<td>Monica Narsolis, Ariana Hartoonian</td>
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<td>CT PAF Representative</td>
<td>Hannah Carson</td>
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<td>GPSS Senator</td>
<td>Rachel Blumel</td>
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<td>Wellness Chair</td>
<td>Elizabeth Togneri</td>
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<td>Medical School Council Chairs</td>
<td>Dao Ho, Jenna Moscarelli</td>
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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

Elisabeth Cuoco, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor, Associate Director of Clinical Education

Courtney Fankhanel, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical Education

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Director of Research 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, MSN, MS, RN
Associate Director of Administration

Wynne Bottomley, BA
Curriculum Coordinator, Didactic Team

Marisol Britt, BA
Clinical Site Manager

Meridith Cayer, MS
Associate Director of Admissions, Registrar

Peg Gallagher, BS
Program Coordinator

Alison Garb, MBA
Program Analyst

Megan Pendagast, BA
Research Program Manager

Rita Rienzo, MMSc, PA-C
Alumni Engagement 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.