



YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Physician Associate Program

Commencement Ceremony

December 9, 2024

PROGRAM

WELCOME &
INTRODUCTION OF
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER

David Brissette, MMSc, PA-C

*Assistant Professor
Program Director*

COMMENCEMENT
ADDRESS

Robert L. Camp, MD, PhD

*Department of Pathology
Yale School of Medicine*

COMMENCEMENT
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

Tara Herbert, MS, PA-C

*Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical Skills,
Assessment and Remediation*

PROGRAM AWARD
PRESENTATIONS

Elisabeth Cuoco, MMSc, PA-C

*Assistant Professor,
Associate Director of Clinical Education*

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH

*Assistant Professor, Director of Research
Education, Deputy Director of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion*

STUDENT ADDRESS

Joseph Kruk, Class of 2024

STUDENT AWARD
PRESENTATIONS

Brianna Brite, Class of 2024
Cordelia Cluett, Class of 2024

OATH

Jonathan Weber, MA, PA-C
*Assistant Professor, Director of
Didactic Education*

CLOSING

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

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, FACOG

*Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences,
Deputy Dean of Education and Harold W. Jockers Professor
of Medical Education*

Alexandria Garino, PhD, PA-C

Associate Professor, Associate Dean for PA Education

Kenneth Morford, MD, FASAM

*Assistant Professor, Medical Director,
Yale Physician Associate Program and Physician Assistant
Online Program, Associate Program Director*

Robert L. Camp MD, PhD

*Department of Pathology
Yale University, School of Medicine*

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Robert L. Camp MD PhD
Department of Pathology
Yale School of Medicine

Dr. Camp is an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Pathology at Yale University School of Medicine. After completing a Ph.D. in Immunology at Rockefeller University, he earned his M.D. from Yale School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in Pathology. His research has focused on developing automated, quantitative methods for biomarker analysis in tissue specimens. Dr. Camp has a strong interest in using emerging technologies—such as web-based platforms, AI, and QR codes—to create a more interactive learning environment for students and instructors. Clinically, he serves with the Yale Autopsy Service and teaches immunology and pathology to Yale medical and physician associate students.

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE 2024

Elijah Adams •

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Resuming Anticoagulation in High Thrombotic Risk Patients After Traumatic Intracranial Hemorrhage*

Isabel Bautista •

Gettysburg College, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Utility of Serum Uromodulin in Predicting Kidney Injury in Acute Decompensated Heart Failure*

Brianna Brite

University of California – Los Angeles, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Nutrition Education to Prevent Bone Stress Injuries in Collegiate Male Athletes: A Randomized Trial*

Zachery Tyler Camacho •

Arizona State University – Tempe, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Aortic Aneurysms in Lyme Disease Patients: A Comparative Analysis with Global Prevalence*

Cordelia Zurita Cluett

University of Vermont, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Cardiovascular Versus Resistance Training in LGBTQ+ Adolescents with Overweight or Obesity*

Mateusz Edison Conrado

Grand Valley State University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Thesis Title: *Effect of Selective Head-Neck Cooling Therapy on Specific Brain Biomarkers After Concussive Injury*

Meredith Amanda Crews *

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *The Effect of Laparoscopic Surgery for Endometriosis on Quality of Life in Sexual Minority Women*

Matthew Vahe Dermksian *

University of Delaware - Newark, Bachelor of Science/Master of Science

Thesis Title: *Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Versus Medical Therapy for Chronic Total Occlusion in Older Adults*

Carlie Ann Dominguez

University of Delaware - Newark, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Transesophageal Echocardiography During Prehospital Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation*

Elizabeth Marie Encarnacion

Brown University, Bachelor of Arts

Thesis Title: *Strength Training Versus Aerobic Exercise on Glycemic Control in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes*

Megan Elizabeth Engeland *

Washington and Lee University, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *The Association of Apathy with Functional and Cognitive Impairment in Individuals with Biomarker Confirmed Alzheimer's Disease Pathology*

Sarah Rosie Hartman

Messiah College, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *The Effect of Slow Tempo Music Listening on Incidence of Delirium in Skilled Nursing Facilities*

Joann Shalom Hegbe

University of Maryland - College Park, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Inositol to Lower Glucose Levels in Gestational Diabetes Patients with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome*

Yeun Hiroi *

University of Massachusetts - Amherst, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Memantine for Preservation of Neurocognitive Function During Reirradiation of Recurrent Glioblastoma*

Joshua Horowitz-Benoit

Boston College, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *The Effects of Acupuncture on Retention Among Patients with Opioid Use Disorder on Methadone*

Faith Dang-Khoa Huynh **

University of Houston - University Park, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Efficacy of Long-Term Systemic Antibiotics in the Management of Hidradenitis Suppurativa*

Brooke Alexandra Iarussi

Quinnipiac University, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *The Effect of a Daily Art Intervention on Postoperative Delirium in Adults Age 70 and Older*

Megan Patricia Karoly *

Bucknell University, Bachelor of Arts

Thesis Title: *Photodynamic Therapy for Early Prevention of Actinic Keratoses and Skin Cancer Post-Organ Transplant*

Joseph Anthony Kruk ◊

State University of New York- New Paltz, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Provider Engagement with Tele-Education and Quality Health Indicators*

Alexandra Nicholle Liberti

University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Targeted Temperature Management Device Initiation Time and Neurologic Outcomes After Cardiac Arrest*

Peilin Liu ★

Georgia State University, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Effect of Empagliflozin in Adult Patients with Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis*

Ashley Marie Manning

University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Prolonged Metformin for Managing Postpartum Weight Retention in Women with Gestational Diabetes*

Natalie Alicia McBranch

Whitman College, Bachelor of Arts
Thesis Title: *Anxiety Mitigation During Intrauterine Device Insertion to Improve Patient Experience and Outcomes*

Adrienne Ngo ◊

Rutgers - State University of New Jersey - New Brunswick, Bachelor of Arts
Thesis Title: *Impact of Exposures on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Severity & its Clinical Features*

Jessica Nhan ■

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Bachelor of Arts
Thesis Title: *Peri-Operative Music Listening Experience for Patients Undergoing Breast-related Procedures in China*

Maggie Mireya O’Keeffe ◊

University of San Diego, Bachelor of Arts
Thesis Title: *Combination Treatment of Frozen Shoulder: Physical Therapy with Oral Versus Intra-Articular Steroids*

Caroline J. Peh

University of Southern California, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Butyrylcholinesterase Level in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Variation by Prenatal Smoking Status*

James William Robbins ◊

University of Massachusetts - Lowell, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Natural Language Processing Implementation: Electronic Medical Record Alerts for Child Abuse*

Michelle Esther Rodriguez ◊

Fordham University - Rose Hill, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Diagnostic Disclosure Using Script-Driven Imagery in Borderline Personality Disorder*

Nicole Marie Romaneschi

University of California - Los Angeles, Bachelor of Science
Thesis Title: *Effect of a Multispecies Probiotic with Fluconazole on Oral Candidiasis in Subjects with HIV*

Erik Martin Schaefer *

Excelsior College, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Heat Stroke Readiness: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Emergency Department Advanced Practice Providers*

Jake Josef Smiech

California State University - San Marcos, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Intermittent Fasting as an Adjuvant to Standard Drug Therapy for Drug Resistant Epilepsy*

Hailey Lynn Wagner †

Marist College, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Clinical Impact of Sex in the Treatment of Osteochondral Lesions of the Talus with Orthobiologics*

Andres Fernando Yanez

University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science

Thesis Title: *Using Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Monitoring to Diagnose Acute Compartment Syndrome*

Harrison John Young

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Bachelor of Arts

Thesis Title: *Effect of Blood Flow Restriction on Athletes Undergoing Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction*

* Pending the completion of all requirements

† Received Honors on their Thesis Project

• Participated in Alternative Thesis Project

▪ Yale School of Public Health Downs Fellowship Recipient

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

(Selected by Yale PA Program Faculty)

**Dr. John P. Hayslett Award for
Overall Academic Excellence**

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**

The mission of the Yale Physician Associate Program is to educate outstanding clinicians and to foster leaders who will serve their communities and advance quality healthcare for all. 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 2024)

OUTSTANDING DIDACTIC COURSE AWARD

for dedication and excellence in the classroom

Robert L. Camp, MD, PhD

Associate Research Scientist in Pathology

OUTSTANDING PRECEPTOR AWARD

for dedication and excellence in clinical education

Alberto J. Rodriguez, MD FAAFP

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL SITE AWARD

clinical rotation site that provides
exemplary clinical teaching

Bridgeport Hospital Obstetrics and Gynecology

JACK COLE SOCIETY AWARD

for significant contributions in support
of the PA profession

David Brissette, MMSc, PA-C

*Assistant Professor, Director of the Physician
Associate Program*

CLASS OF 2024 AWARD

for support and dedication to the
Yale PA Program and the Class of 2024

Tara Herbert, MS, PA-C

*Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical Skills,
Assessment and Remediation*

CLASS OF 2024 OFFICERS

Class Co-Presidents

Brianna Brite
Cordelia Cluett

Class Communicators

Cordelia Cluett
Nicole Romaneschi

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Student Representatives

Maisy Crews
Joann Hegbe

Social Chair

Jessica Nhan
Alex Liberti

AAPA Representatives

Joe Kruk
Jimmy Robbins

Medical School Council Chair

Erik Schaefer

CT PA Foundation Chairs

Faith Huynh
Liz Encarnacion

ConnAPA Representative

Andres Yanez

Wellness Chair

Matt Conrado

Peer Advocates

Joe Kruk
Isabel Bautista

Volunteer Coordinator

Roise Hartman

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Faculty

David Brissette, MMSc, PA-C

*Assistant Professor, Program Director
Faculty Chair of Admissions*

Elisabeth Cuoco, MMSc, PA-C

*Assistant Professor,
Associate Director of Clinical Education*

Courtney Fankhanel, MMSc, PA-C

*Assistant Professor, Associate Program Director,
Director of Clinical Education*

Alexandria Garino, PHD, PA-C

*Associate Dean for PA Education
and Associate Professor*

Rosana Gonzalez-Colaso, PharmD, MPH

*Assistant Professor, Director of Research Education
Deputy Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

Tara Herbert, MS, PA-C

*Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical Skills,
Assessment and Remediation*

Kenneth Morford, MD, FASAM

*Assistant Professor, Medical Director of the Physician
Associate Program and Physician Assistant
Online Program*

Jonathan Weber, MA, PA-C

Assistant Professor, Director of Didactic Education

Katie Woodlee, MS, PA-C

*Assistant Professor,
Associate Director of Didactic Education*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jennifer Barrett

Curriculum Coordinator, Clinical Team

Wynne Bottomley, BA

Curriculum Coordinator, Didactic Team

Meridith Cayer, MS

Director of Admissions, Registrar

Kristen Kimmel, MSW

Data Coordinator

Mikalsh Knight, BA

Research/Thesis Coordinator, Research Team

Triana McCown, MSW, MPA

Associate Director of Operations

Rita Rienzo, MMSc, PA-C

Manager, Alumni Engagement

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.

