

Scripps Mercy Family Medicine Residents – Class of 2027



Aliyah Carson, DO

she/her/hers

A.T. Still University

Aliyah was born in Chula Vista and has spent most of her life in San Diego. She left to attend UCLA where she earned a bachelor's in psychobiology with a minor in art history. She then returned to San Diego to work at a start-up company that was producing a novel drug for peripheral neuropathy, and later began researching HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders at the University of California, San Diego where she became a multi-published author.

Having grown up in the South Bay and being a proud daughter of a Mexican immigrant, it has always been a passion of Aliyah's to serve her community and help families like hers. She received her own medical care at an federally qualified health center (FQHC) and plans to work in this setting after residency.

While attending A.T. Still University for medical school, she completed her clinical years within Southern San Diego and became involved in many community service opportunities through SYH. She continues to participate in many of these events as a resident.

She is interested in pediatrics, woman's health, behavioral health, and of course serving the underserved community she calls home. She enjoys spending time with her family including her pet Chihuahua Honey, anything food related, and sharing new experiences with those she cares about.



Bea Dunoyer de Segonzac, MD

University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

Bea Dunoyer de Segonzac was born in Miami, Florida to immigrant parents and is the eldest sibling in a multicultural household. Growing up, they spoke a mix of languages and were exposed to a variety of cultures. They saw the beautiful way these cultures were celebrated alongside the challenges that came with assimilating into American culture. They received their Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Florida State University (go noles!) and attended medical school at the University of South Florida. While in medical school, they spent much of their time advocating for patients, specifically when it came to language and cultural barriers. During that time, they spent several years working with the student run refugee clinic and became a director in their last year of medical school. Bea plans to become a full spectrum family medicine physician in order to be able to serve marginalized and refugee populations as fully as possible. In the future, they would

absolutely love to work for a global health organization. Other topics in medicine that Bea is interested in are LGBTQ+ care, gender affirming care, adolescent health, and health equity. They are thrilled to be in sunny San Diego with the cutest dog in the entire world, Poppy, pursuing their all too many hobbies. Lately, those hobbies include: climbing, hiking, baking, embroidery, kickball, and reading.



Nidhi Gajakas, MD

she/her/hers

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Nidhi was born in Mumbai, India and is the daughter of two first-generation immigrants. She is the first to become a physician in her family. Her passion for medicine stems from her family roots, her commitment to service and leadership, and her experiences working with underserved populations.

She completed K-12 in Alpharetta, Georgia and moved to Miami to attend the University of Miami with a major in Health Science. She completed her undergraduate education in 3 years and matriculated directly into University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine. While in medical school, Nidhi helped inaugurate the Period Education Project and served as a presenter/mentor for this education-focused organization. Nidhi also served as a patient

coordinator for Miami Street Medicine, delivering medical care and navigation services to Miami's unsheltered population, and At Your Cervix, an organization focused on connecting women with abnormal pap smears to follow-up appointments. Throughout her last two years in medical school, Nidhi taught biweekly Cuban salsa classes to her medical school classmates, residents, and even patients in the rehabilitation center. During her M4 year, she also worked as a Clinic Outreach Coordinator for Freeze Health, a platform that provides full transparency on all things egg freezing.

During residency, some of Nidhi's goals include becoming fluent in Spanish, learning how to efficiently maximize time with patients, and understanding the unique health needs of the SoCal communities.

Outside of medicine, Nidhi enjoys salsa dancing, reading books, line dancing, painting, cooking, going for walks, trying new foods, and traveling.



Lauren Mussell, MD

she/her/ella

University of South Alabama College of Medicine

Lauren was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. She is the proud daughter of two physicians and is grateful to follow in her parents' footsteps as she pursues a career in medicine.

Lauren attended Auburn University where she double majored in biomedical sciences and Spanish. During her undergraduate years, Lauren worked as a learning assistant for freshman biology and as an ESL tutor for Spanish-speaking high school students. Through her volunteer work with hospice, Lauren developed a passion for health equity and advocacy as she witnessed the healthcare disparities faced by those in rural and under-resourced communities.

She attended medical school at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine (USACOM) in Mobile, AL where she fell in love with both family medicine and community advocacy. While in medical school, Lauren volunteered with outreach organizations like Dwell Mobile and El Centro de Guadalupe, working to address the medical, educational, and legal needs of refugees in Mobile county. She also served as president of the Wellness Council and vice president of the Medical Spanish Interest Group. Lauren is a proud member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society, and she is forever indebted to her classmates, faculty, and mentors at USACOM for guiding her along the path to become a family physician.

Lauren is incredibly excited to train at Scripps where she will be able to further develop her passions for underserved communities, full-spectrum family medicine, and Spanish. In her free time, Lauren enjoys the outdoors, lifting weights, keeping her 30+ houseplants alive, top rope climbing with her co-residents, and reading the newest Sarah J. Maas book!



Gianna Nino-Tapias, MD, MS Epidemiology

she/her/ella

Stanford University School of Medicine

Gianna Nino-Tapias is from Eastern Oregon and Washington, where her family worked as migrant farmworkers, native to la Mixteca Baja of Oaxaca. She started working in the fields when she was 13 years old, which inspired her to dream of better health conditions for her community. She graduated from high school as the first Latina/Indigena Valedictorian of her high school, and headed to university on a full-ride scholarship at Stanford University as a Gates Millenium Scholar. There she completed several community health research projects locally in East Palo Alto, and spent multiple summers with the Community Health in Oaxaca program, as well as a summer with Puente a la Salud Comunitaria in Oaxaca working on Indigenous food sovereignty for local youth. She was co-chair of the Natives in Medicine group during her undergraduate time.

She then completed a Masters degree in Epidemiology and Clinical Research at Stanford University School of Medicine and completed a thesis analyzing weight status impact on oral poliovirus vaccine shedding in rural Mexican communities and Zimbabwean communities with Dr. Yvonne (Bonnie) Maldonado and Jonathan Altamirano. She then enrolled in medical school at Stanford University School of Medicine where she was a mentor through the Stanford American Indigenous Medical Students for the undergraduate Natives in Medicine group. She also completed a Albert Schweitzer fellowship project with Puente de la Costa Sur conducting Spanish COVID educational outreach for the farmworkers in rural South San Mateo county, as well as several other health topics. She received the Stanford Medicine Wang Award for Excellence and Leadership in Family Medicine. She is interested in behavioral and psychiatric care, rural health, and culturally and linguistically competent care.

When she is not learning medicine, she is spending time with her quinceañera chihuahua, Roxy, who has been with her since high school! She loves to embroider, play Pokémon Go, Animal Crossing, and hike and take long walks jamming out to her favorite tunes.



Melissa Higareda, MD

she/her/ella

University of Nevada School of Medicine

Melissa was born and raised in “The Biggest Little City in the World,” Reno, NV. She is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents and the eldest of three. Her strong family values of hard work, empathy, and compassion helped shape her passion in advocating for underserved communities.

She was the first in her family to attend college, completing her undergraduate education at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Melissa majored in Medical Anthropology & Global Health and was a founding board member of the Chicanos/Latinos for Community Medicine Chapter at UW. She then moved to Sonoma County in Northern California where she served as a Patient Navigator at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) for Health Corps-America Corps.

For medical school, Melissa returned to her hometown to attend the University of Nevada Reno, School of Medicine (UNR Med). As a medical student, she was co-chair of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and collaborated on projects such as the Allyship Forum, focused on promoting health equity. Melissa was also a mentor through the UNR Premed Clinic which aimed to increase underrepresented minorities in medicine. She was recognized as an AHEC Scholar and was a recipient of the Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award at UNR Med.

Beyond her studies, Melissa finds joy in weightlifting and staying active. Her greatest joy, however, is spending time with her son and husband. She has a spirited 2-year-old who loves to dance, run, sing and never seems to run out of energy.



Jetashree Kumaravel, MD, MPH

she/hers

Rush Medical College

Jeta was raised in Northern California as a daughter of immigrants from Chennai, India. She completed her undergraduate degree at the university of San Francisco. She explored her interest in the intersection of social justice, advocacy and health care by volunteering at a homeless health clinic. Her experience here, led her to pursue opportunities to engage in community health and to learn more about health care delivery to underserved populations, including working at a free clinic as an MA, obtaining her MPH, and creating health education materials for first 5 yolo. She went to med school in Chicago and quickly came back to sunny California for residency.

She's hopes to provide compassionate and high quality care to her patients on an individual basis while using her MPH to effect change at a systemic level. She was drawn to Scripps for the emphasis on community health, border health/global health, and full spectrum family medicine!

In her free time she bakes, cooks, runs, reads, and pursues her goal of trying all the ice cream shops in San Diego.



Graham Sutherland, MD, MSPH

he/him

Marshall University

Graham was raised in Shenandoah Junction, WV alongside his older brothers and many dogs. His passion growing up was playing soccer, and eventually that led him to Marymount University where he played on their men's team.

After completing his BS in Biology, Graham went to Ecuador in 2012 to participate in a Chagas disease research program for 2 months. That experience ignited his interest in global health and in 2013 he enrolled at Johns Hopkins to pursue a master's degree in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control. As part of his program, he later became a Peace Corps volunteer in northern Peru working as a community health promoter.

In April 2017, the Peace Corps evacuated Graham from Peru because of an El Niño event that had led to widespread flooding, but later that year he returned to work as a research assistant on various global health projects at La Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and the Instituto Nacional de Salud del Niño.

In 2018, Graham became an ORISE fellow within the Bacterial Special Pathogens Branch of the CDC to work on their leptospirosis team. Although he really enjoyed this job, his past experiences working with underserved populations had motivated him to pursue medicine, so it was during this time he decided to apply to medical school.

Graham attended Marshall University in Huntington, WV. While there, he was a Learning Communities leader and was also very active as a volunteer, including with the Marshall Mobile Outreach clinic. Upon graduation he was honored with a Community Service Award.

Graham was ecstatic to find a full-spectrum program that truly values working with its community and can't wait to learn and grow as a physician at Scripps Mercy Chula Vista!

In his free time, Graham enjoys hanging out with his wife and dog (especially at OB Dog Beach!) playing soccer and being outdoors as much as possible.



Uriel Villalobos, MD

he/him/el

University of Colorado School of Medicine

Uriel was born in Lynwood, California and his parents moved to Nayarit, Mexico when he was six months old. He returned to the United States (Denver, CO) at the age of 18 and after attending one-year of high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. At the end of his five-year military contract, he returned to Denver to complete his undergraduate studies and medical school at the University of Colorado.

Uriel lived in a rural and medically underserved area while growing up in Mexico and developed a passion for taking care of marginalized communities during his medical studies and military career. He feels privileged to be at Scripps Mercy Chula Vista taking care of his Latino and diverse community.

In his free time, he enjoys exercising, practicing martial arts, and visiting family in San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico.