

**University of Michigan  
Interdisciplinary Research Training Center in Cancer Care Delivery**

2021-2023 Fellow



**Lauren Ghazal, MS, FNP-BC**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2021-2023

Lauren completed her PhD in Nursing Research and Theory Development at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Her dissertation focused on multilevel factors impacting work and quality of life in young adult hematologic cancer survivors. Lauren also practices as a family nurse practitioner.

Lauren is interested in understanding the financial and economic impact of cancer in adolescents and young adults. She is thrilled to build on her economics undergraduate degree to expand this work.

Mentoring: Dr. Bradley Zebrack  
Twitter: @ [lghazal](#)

2020-2023 Fellows



**Nina Jackson Levin MSW**

Pre-Doctoral Fellow, 2020-2022

Nina is a doctoral candidate in the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Anthropology. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Comparative Literature and her Masters of Social Work both from the University of Michigan.

Nina is interested in reproductive health and fertility preservation (i.e. oncofertility) for adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer patients. In particular, her research attends to oncofertility service delivery for sexual and gender minority patients. Nina applies an anthropological lens to the AYA life stage. This lens enables critical inquiry into the assumed normative trajectory of the life course, and the ways in which the experience of AYA cancer may or may not “disrupt” this trajectory. Nina's dissertation research focuses on current efforts to develop AYA-focused psychosocial programming at Michigan Medicine.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Megan Rist Haymart and Dr. Bradley Zebrack

Twitter: @ [nina.jackson.levin](https://twitter.com/nina.jackson.levin)

2022-2024 Fellows



**Cinzia Caparso, BSN, RN, PhD**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2022-2024

Cinzia completed her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at Oakland University. She practiced as an adult oncology registered nurse and a simulation nurse while obtaining her PhD. She received her PhD from Wayne State University College of Nursing. Her dissertation focused on identifying dying concerns in African American parents with advanced cancer with dependent children about their co-parent.

Cinzia is interested in understanding the concept of dying concerns in families with a parent with advanced cancer with dependent children from all family members' perspective. Her main research goal is to develop communication interventions for family members and health care providers to decrease the family's suffering when a loved one is at end-of-life. She looks forward to working in partnership with an interdisciplinary team to increase her research expertise.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Sung Choi and Dr. Christopher Friese



**Sara Schaefer, MD**

Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2022-2024

Sara is a general surgery resident in the Department of Surgery at the University of Michigan. Sara grew up in Boise, Idaho and attended medical school at the University of Washington.

During medical school, she spent six months at a critical access hospital in rural Idaho and became interested in better understanding geographic variation in access to surgical subspecialty care, particularly complex cancer surgery. With the growth of regional health care systems, she hopes to study how health networks can optimize the delivery of surgical cancer care services across a diverse geographical region. After completion of surgical training, she plans to return to Idaho to focus on improving delivery of quality surgical cancer services across the state and region.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Michael Englesbe, Dr. Hari Nathan, and Dr. Andrew Ibrahim



**Rishi Sekar, MD**

Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2022-2024

Rishi is a Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) fellow in the Department of Urology at Michigan Medicine and a Clinician Scholar in the National Clinician Scholars Program at the University of Michigan. He attended medical school at Emory University School of Medicine and completed his urologic surgery residency at the University of Washington. Rishi is interested in leveraging health policy, health care delivery model innovation, and patient reported outcomes to improve care for patients with urologic cancers.



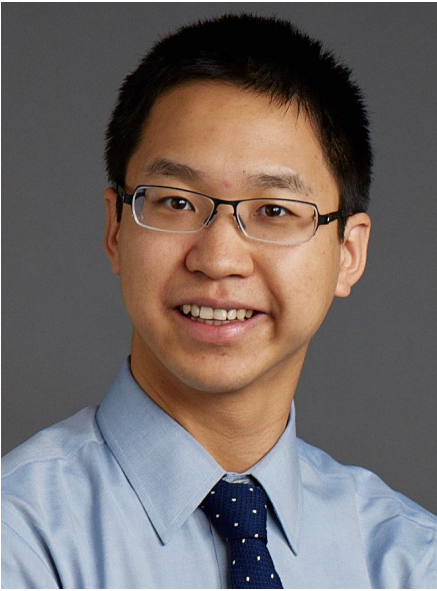
**Jill Randall, Ph.D., MSW, LICSW**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow 2022-2024

Jill is a clinical social worker with experience in hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and palliative care. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of Louisville where her dissertation used group concept mapping methodology to elucidate a conceptual framework of the psychosocial elements that should be assessed in HCT candidates.

As a researcher with a strong practice background, Jill is drawn to clinically-relevant research, particularly implementation science. She is excited to study best strategies for integrating evidence-based psychosocial assessment and interventions into routine cancer care delivery contexts.

Mentor: Dr. Bradley Zebrack

## Program Alumni



**Christopher Su MD MPH**

Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2020-2022

Chris is an adult hematology/oncology fellow in the Department of Medicine at Michigan Medicine. He completed his MD/MPH at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and his internal medicine residency at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, New York.

Chris is interested in studying financial barriers to cancer care and examining how this exacerbates existing socioeconomic disparities of treatment outcomes. Clinically, Chris is planning on specializing in malignant hematology, and will be studying patient access barriers to novel antineoplastic drugs.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Minal Patel, Dr. Christine Veenstra, and Dr. Matthew Pianko.

Current Appointment: University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center



**Megan Mullins, PhD, MPH**

Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2020-2022

Megan completed her MPH and PhD at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology. Her dissertation work focused on racial disparities in ovarian cancer care.

Megan is interested in understanding barriers to the receipt of quality cancer care including patient characteristics, structural barriers and the comparative effectiveness of treatment modalities. Her postdoctoral work will focus on generating evidence to identify gaps in the quality of cancer care among cognitively impaired older adults and understanding functional aging trajectories among cancer patients. More broadly, Megan is passionate about care for gynecologic cancers and focusing on disparities among racial and sexual/gender minorities.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Lauren Wallner and Dr. Lindsay Kobayashi  
Current Appointment: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



**Nate Nessel, DO**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2020-2022

Nate is a pediatric hematology/oncology fellow at CS Mott Children's Hospital in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Michigan. He obtained his medical degree at Rocky Vista University in Colorado and completed his pediatric residency at the University of Louisville in Kentucky before practicing as a general pediatrician in 2018.

Nate is interested in studying fever and neutropenia episodes in pediatric oncology patients by developing an outpatient treatment model for those at low risk for complications. Nate plans on specializing in oncology, possibly bone marrow transplant, and has specific interests in global medicine.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Sung Choi and Dr. Rajen Mody  
Current Appointment: Global Health Fellowship, National Institutes of Health, Fogarty Institute





**Ariel Washington, Phd, MSSW**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2020-2022

Ariel completed her MSSW and PhD at the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work. Her dissertation focused on cervical cancer screening and prevention in African American women using mobile health (mHealth) technology. Using a community-based participatory approach she delivered tailored text messages to African American women through their mobile phones.

She is interested in continuing to explore cancer disparities in African Americans during her time with the program. Focusing on innovative community based approaches to reach marginalized populations, especially during this time of social distancing, across the cancer care continuum. She looks forward to collaborating with fellow researchers on ways to improve the cancer care experience for African Americans, from prevention to survivorship care.

Mentoring Committee: Dr. Minal Patel, Dr. Bradley Zebrack, and Dr. Katrina Ellis  
Current Appointment: TBD