**Academic Development Time**

**Aneel Damle, MD, MBA:**

Aneel spent his research time successfully completing his MBA with a focus in Health Sector Management at the Boston University Questrom School of Business. His MBA training was applied to his clinical area of interest, colorectal surgery, in creating a Lean Colonoscopy program at Memorial endoscopy, which was published in Surgical Endoscopy.

**Rachelle Damle, MD, MSCI:**

Rachelle completed the 2-year Surgical Research Scholars program at UMass in 2014. Her work focused on quality and cost outcomes in colorectal surgery, under the mentorship of Karim Alavi, MD, MPH, and Justin Maykel, MD, utilizing the University HealthSystem Consoritum Clinical Database. She was privileged to present her work at multiple regional and national meetings, including NESS, ASCRS, and SSAT. She also received a Traveling Fellowship Grant from the Society of Vascular Surgery. Rachelle has published her original work and a systematic review in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, and the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. She also obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation at the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. She plans to continue her quality outcomes work throughout her career utilizing the skills she obtained during her time away from clinical duties.

**Jason Wiseman, MD, MPH:**

Jason conducted his academic development time at the University of Wisconsin where he was awarded an NIH T32 Vascular Surgery training grant. While performing health services research, he also achieved a Masters of Population Health within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

**Soleil Niknam-Bienia, MD, MHA, MBA:**

Soleil spent the first year of her two years of research in the Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory of Alex Wong, MD, FACS at the University of Southern California. She focused that year of basic science on mainly two projects: lymphedema and irradiated tissue. Her work culminated in multiple papers, most including a publication in Nature's Scientific Reports, as well as a podium presentation in 2014 at the Plastic Surgery Research Council (PSRC) Conference.

At the end of that year, Soleil got married and decided to spend her second year closer to her husband in Chicago. She joined the Plastic Surgery Research and Wound Healing Laboratory of Thomas Mustoe, MD and Robert Galiano, MD at Northwestern University in Chicago. Here, her basic science research focused on muscle-specific extracellular matrix derived hydrogel for 3D-printing and its properties. This also culminated in a podium presentation at the 2015 PSRC conference.

**Christine Choi, MD:**

Christine completed two years of research under the mentorship of Walter A. Koltun, MD, FACS, FASCRS, Chief of the [Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery](http://www.umassmed.edu/surgery/divisions-and-programs/colorectal_aboutus/colorectal_aboutus/) at the [Pennsylvania State University Milton S. Hershey Medical Center](http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/college). Christine was able to expand her knowledge in scientific investigation by pursuing a Master’s degree in Biomedical Science at Penn State. Dr. Koltun mentored her in several translational science projects using the Penn State Colorectal Biobank, investigating the clinical significance and application of various genetic analysis approaches (single nucleotide polymorphisms, exome sequencing, RNA-sequencing), focusing on diverticular disease and inflammatory bowel disease. She also experienced outcomes research using a national database. She presented several of her projects at national conferences. She received the [ASCRS](http://www.ascrs.org/) Traveling Fellowship Grant from the Pennsylvania Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons in 2015.

**Abe Jaffe, MD:**

Abe Jaffe, MD completed the Surgical Research Scholars program and served as the first Surgical Research Scholar in Residence at [Charutar Arogya Mandal](http://www.charutarhealth.org/) (CAM) medical complex in Gujarat, India. Under the guidance of mentor Heena Santry, MD, he collaborated with surgeons, researchers, and faculty at CAM on trauma-related outcomes research projects and helped to establish a trauma registry at the institution. He also concurrently pursued a Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Global Health through the Continuing Education Department of [the University of Massachusetts, Amherst](http://www.umass.edu/).

**Charles Psoinos, MD, MSCI:**

Charles Psoinos, MD conducted two years of research time under the mentorship of Heena Santry, MD. He was mentored by Dr. Heena Santry of the [Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery](http://www.umassmed.edu/surgery/divisions-and-programs/trauma-and-surgical-critical-care/about-us/) as well as Dr. Fred Anderson head of the [Center for Outcomes Research](http://www.outcomes-umassmed.org/) (COR Lab) here at UMass. During this time, his focus included acute care surgery and trauma outcomes in elderly Americans, using the Medicare Database. He pursued a Masters of Clinical Investigation at the [University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences](http://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/).

**Frank Yuan, MD:**

Frank Yuan performed two years of research at the University of Michigan Health System where he worked under Kevin C. Chung, MD, MS, FACS, Chief of Hand Surgery and Charles B. G. de Nancrede Professor of Surgery. Under Dr. Chung’s tutelage, Frank engaged in clinical outcomes research in the area of hand and upper extremity surgery at the University of Michigan. He was awarded a [National Institute of Health](http://www.nih.gov/) (NIH) Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NSRA) for his Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (F32 Grant), which focused on the surgical treatment of thumb carpometacarpal arthritis. He has published papers ranging from case reports and comparative studies, to systematic reviews and large national database studies in various areas of hand surgery. Additionally, he has published special topic papers in the area of health policy, and a book chapter on evidence-based practice in hand surgery

**Danilo Decio, MD**

Danilo completed a Master in Business Administration program at the Isenberg Institute of Management at UMass Amherst College. His MBA specialization was Medical Management Concentration and he completed the 125 credit hour curriculum from the American Association for Physician Leadership. In addition, he was a founding member of the American College of Healthcare Trustees. He worked with Dr. Litwin and the Department of Surgical Technology Innovation and Commercialization at UMass Memorial on technology development and consulting with both Boston Scientific and Bard Davol.

**Jonathan Green, MD**

Jonathan Green performed Clinical Outcomes Research with the Division of Pediatric Surgery under the mentorship of Dr. Jeremy Aidlen and obtained his Master's in Clinical Science and Investigation from UMass. His research focused on Pediatric Obesity, Bariatric/Weight Loss Surgery, Pediatric Trauma/Injury Prevention, and General Pediatric Surgery. Jonathan was one of six recipients of an NIH Funded TL1 Training grant from the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS).

**Chris Schlieve, MD**

Under the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Pediatric Surgery Research Fellowship and the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Clinical Training Grant, Chris drew upon his background in stem cell biology, neurobiology, and tissue engineering to develop unique therapeutic strategies to combat functional disorders of the gastrointestinal tract. In Dr. Tracy Grikscheit’s laboratory, he worked to successfully generate tissue-engineered small intestine (TESI) with a functionally integrated enteric nervous system derived exclusively from human embryonic (hESCs) and induced pluripotent stem cells (hIPSCs). This method may provide a novel approach to treat devastating inherited and acquired gastrointestinal diseases in the pediatric and adult populations.