



Current Infectious Disease Fellowship Classes

Class of 2021

Polly Van Den Berg, MD

Polly was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands but was raised in Philadelphia, PA. She received her MD from Temple University and then moved to Boston to complete medical residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. As an infectious diseases fellow, she became interested in Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology and will pursue advanced training in these areas. In her free time, she enjoys running, boot camp classes, and hiking with her husband and dog, Goose.

Andrew Kapoor, MD

After graduating from the University of Toronto medical school, Andrew completed his residency in Internal Medicine McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He decided to leave Canada to pursue ID training in the United States, and was lucky to end up in Boston at one of the country's leading ID programs and is currently a first year fellow in the adult BIDMC fellowship program. In addition to general ID, his clinical focus also includes HIV and global health under the mentorship of Dr. Roger Shupiro and Dr. Rebecca Zash. Research interests include clinical and epidemiological research in international HIV. In his free time, he loves travelling to new places in New England and playing tennis!

Sara Winn Dong, MD

After graduating from Medical University of South Carolina, Sara completed her Internal Medicine-Pediatrics residency at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center & Nationwide Children's Hospital. She served as a Med-Peds chief resident while in training, followed by an additional chief resident year for the Nationwide Children's Pediatric Residency program. Sara is currently completing a Med-Peds ID fellowship at BIDMC and Boston Children's. Academic interests include transplant, immunocompromised hosts, and global health. In her free time, Sara enjoys collecting cookbooks and pretending to be a chef, admiring pandas, and catching up on the latest in pop culture.

Elisabeth Merchant, MD

Elise grew up in Montana, but came East for undergrad at Brown. She moved to Boston for medical school and Internal Medicine residency at Tufts Medical Center, where she spent an additional year as a chief resident. Her passion is Medical Education, and she is excited to be accepted into BIDMC's Fellow Clinician Educator Track during her second year of fellowship. Additional medical interests include infections in persons who use drugs, a field in which she did research in residency, and HIV. Her hobbies outside of the hospital include board games, trivia, reading, yoga, boxing, and spending time with her husband and their cat, Ollivander.

Elizabeth Christian, MD

After graduating from Rush Medical College, Liz completed Med-Peds residency at Maine Medical Center before joining the BIDMC and Boston Children's Hospital fellowship programs as a Med-Peds ID fellow. In addition to general ID, her clinical focus includes HIV clinical care and prevention. Her research will focus on expanding and optimizing PrEP use in adolescents and other high risk populations. Outside of the hospital, she enjoys baking, reading, and Argentine tango.

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Daniel Taupin, MD

Dan made the journey northward to Boston after finishing medical school, residency, and chief residency at NYU. In addition to his training in Infectious Disease, he is a Harvard Medical School Patient Safety and Quality Fellow, and is pursuing a Masters in Healthcare Quality and Safety. He is currently engaged in projects addressing beta-lactam antibiotic allergy labels in patients at BIDMC, in order to optimize antibiotic selection in this population. In his free time, he likes to run and see live music

Christina Yen, MD

Before coming to BIDMC, Christina attended the University of Southern California for medical school and internal medicine residency. Currently, she researches the impact of resin-containing blood culture bottles on reportable central line-associated and non-central line-associated bloodstream infections. She is completing a Master of Science in Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and has been selected for an additional year of training as the Infection Control fellow in the division of Infection Control/Hospital Epidemiology in the Silverman Institute for Healthcare Quality and Safety. Outside of work, she loves browsing independent bookstores and trying new cake recipes!

David Kopelman, MD

After graduating from Tufts University School of Medicine (Boston, MA), David completed residency at the University of Chicago (Chicago, IL). He then worked as a hospitalist at Intermountain Medical Center (Salt Lake City, UT) while his wife pursued her own fellowship training. They were both thrilled to return to Boston so David could begin fellowship at BIDMC. David's interests in antimicrobial resistance and stewardship stem from his research in residency, in which he helped identified risk factors for death in patients with CRE and CRAB bacteremia. In fellowship, he is examining the use of oral vancomycin prophylaxis against *C. difficile* infection in hospitalized patients. Favorite activities include hiking, skiing, travel, reading, and naming pets after South Park characters.

Vimal Jhaveri, MD

After graduating medical school at the University of Colorado, Vimal pursued a colder climate by doing residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital before starting fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. In his second year, driven by his interest in medical education, he joined the clinician educator track. He has worked on multidisciplinary projects including trying to harmonize care for patients with diabetic foot infections and increasing access to acute FMT for severe and fulminant C. Diff that intersect medical education and quality improvement. He accepted a job back home at Infectious Disease Consultants in Denver, CO where he will see general, transplant, and outpatient ID patients and continue teaching residents and medical students, all while trying to not break any bones skiing. Outside of ID, Vimal loves spending time with his family, friends, playing basketball, and traveling.

Pankaj Pal, MD, PhD

Pankaj majored in chemistry, biochemistry, and biomedical mathematics in undergrad, where she discovered her passion for basic science research. She then joined the MD/PhD program at Washington University in St. Louis. There, her hobbies included choreographing dances for the annual class show and rock climbing. During her PhD years, she developed monoclonal antibodies against Chikungunya virus and studied neutralization epitopes, and protection in mouse models. She came back east and completed residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center where she stayed for Infectious Diseases Fellowship. For her fellowship research, she is studying Mycobacterium tuberculosis therapeutics in Eric Rubin's lab at the Harvard School of Public Health. In her free time she enjoys frisbee, spinning, and taking barre classes.