



What's New – September 20, 2019

Welcome to Our New Urology Residents

Joel Berends, Anna Faris, Mahir Maruf, Cathy Nam & Alex Zhu

Joel Berends



I was born in Galveston, Texas and raised as an only child. Growing up, I spent a year and a half living with extended family and studying abroad in Perth, Australia. I enlisted a few days before my 19th birthday in the Army as an Airborne Ranger Infantryman and spent the next 4 and a half years continuously training for, or conducting, deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Upon my separation from service, I studied Biology at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, where my family I had lived with in Australia taught Marketing. There I met my wife, Maitreyee,

in Physics class (she is now a first-year medical student in El Paso, TX at the Texas Tech Paul L. Foster SOM).

After college, I returned to Galveston to spend a year in the UTMB lab of Dr. Dennis Bente, investigating tick-borne viruses and their molecular, cellular, and immunological intricacies. I attended the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for medical school. During medical school I spent two summers in Houston in the Fuller Lab at MD Anderson, conducting radiomics and oncologic outcomes research.

When not spending time with my wife or my family in Grand Blanc and Grand Rapids, I enjoy rock climbing and playing the guitar.

I grew up in Rockville, Maryland and earned my undergraduate degree in Neurobiology and Physiology at the University of Maryland. I spent a year working at Apple, and then pursued my medical degree at Ross University School of Medicine. During my clerkships, I developed an interest in urology, particularly the breadth of the surgical procedures. Coincidentally, my dad is also a urologist, and this made our dinner conversations quite interesting. After medical school, I completed a research fellowship at the Urologic Oncology Branch at the NIH National Cancer Institute and then another research fellowship at the Jeffs Division of Pediatric Urology at the John Hopkins University Brady Urological Institute. This brings me to residency at the University of Michigan.

I enjoy spending my free time cooking, traveling, and spending time with my wife. I also enjoy playing music, and have played the electric guitar and drums in a few different punk rock and hip hop groups.

Mahir Maruf





Cathy Nam



I was born in Stanford, California but grew up in Seoul, South Korea. I attended Concord Academy in Massachusetts for boarding school and since then I've been continuously in the US. I went on to Brown University where I studied Human Biology and Comparative Literature (Korean and Italian literature). To decide whether I wanted to pursue medicine, I worked as a clinical research assistant of the Emergency Medicine department of Boston Medical University. I then ventured to Atlanta to attend Emory School of Medicine before coming to University of Michigan. Outside of medicine, I love to cook and explore the food scene wherever I am.

Alex Zhu

Hey everyone! My name is Alex and I am moving to Ann Arbor from sunny Southern California. I was originally born in Providence, Rhode Island. I have since moved to seven different states and am excited to see what Michigan brings. I went to undergrad at UCLA and graduated with a major in Physiology. Afterwards, I worked as a surgical tech for two years and specialized in endovascular procedures within the fields of vascular surgery and interventional radiology. I then transitioned to industry and worked as a medical device representative for Boston Scientific. In this position, I sold coronary stents, balloons, wires, and intravascular imaging devices as a member of their interventional cardiology division. After four years of working in the medical field I developed a sincere passion for medicine and wanted to be a physician myself. I decided to go back to medical school and matriculated at Des Moines University in my pursuit of becoming a doctor. My original intentions were to become a vascular surgeon or cardiologist. However, while exploring different specialties during my 3rd year of medical school, I shadowed a local Des Moines urologist named Dr. Ryan Schulte (University of Michigan urology residency alumni, class of 2009) and immediately knew this was the right field for me. I have an interest in endourology, robotics/MIS, neurogenic bladder, reconstruction, andrology, and medical devices.



While I'm not in the hospital, I enjoy going to concerts, national parks (favorite is the Grand Tetons), trying new restaurants (favorite in AA is Homes Brewery), watching the Minnesota Vikings, travelling, and international medicine. Most recently, I spent two months prior to residency in Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Africa and worked in their hospitals, participated in safaris, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, and trekked with mountain gorillas. I have two very important women in my life – my girlfriend who is a vascular surgery resident at the Cleveland Clinic, and our Chihuahua-Corgi mix named Cookie. I look forward to meeting and working with you all!