

The University of Michigan Department of Urology

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What's New January 8, 2016



Chief Residents Part 2

Urology Department Faculty and Staff

1 Item, 7 Minutes

Our first full week of the year brings us the completion of a What's New edition that we started last year: updates from Urology Chief Residents. After hearing from Rebekah Beach, Michael Kozminski and Miriam Hadj-Moussa during the last full week of 2015, today we'll be hearing from the last member of the Chief Resident cohort, Amy Li. Amy's story serves as a more-than-worthy conclusion to our annual Chief Resident edition of What's New, as I'm not sure we've ever had an accomplished Tae Kwon Do artist who also happens to be a successful competitive fencer. All in all, Amy's contribution provides further evidence that we'll be saying farewell to a truly gifted and accomplished class.

Before we hear from Amy, we have one Departmental news item to announce: as many of you know, Dr. Bloom will be on a duty off campus starting this month and lasting until the end of March. In his absence,

Dr. Brent Hollenbeck will serve as the acting Department Chair, continuing Dr. Bloom's practice of having Associate Chairs hold his spot during his time away (most recently, this acting spot was filled by Dr. Faerber in January to March of 2015, by Dr. Wolf in January to March of 2014, and by Dr. John Wei in January to March in 2013). Dr. Hollenbeck is scheduled to write a What's New contribution near the end of March to provide his thoughts on his time as Acting Chair, so we can look forward to hearing his insights later this year.

Now, without further ado, let's hear from Amy Li.

-Eric Anderson, Marketing and Communications Specialist

1. Amy Li

As you may have noticed, this final chief What's New is a bit tardy! I wanted to include a recent photo that did not involve sweatpants... which was embarrassingly hard to track down with short notice! I did, however, enjoy the opportunity to read my co-chief's entries before submitting mine. I echo Miriam's sentiment that we won the co-resident lottery. Bekah, Hadj, and Koz are a collaborative, kind, and reliable team that it has been a pleasure to learn with!

Compared to early mornings on the farm, late nights at the restaurant, or managing a house full of mini Kozs, I feel that things have been pretty easy for me. My parents were immigrants to this country, and they shouldered most of the burdens early on. My mother and father met in Shanghai after the end of the Cultural Revolution. China back then was not defined by the excesses that you read about today, so coming to America was a chance at a better life. My dad was accepted into a PhD program in English at Harvard... a huge feat given that

learning English was basically illegal in China in the years leading up to this. My mom was a nurse in China but did not speak a bit of English, so she supplemented my dad's meager graduate student income by working as a housekeeper in a hotel and odd jobs around town. How they were able to leave their family, their culture, and all the comforts of home for that kind of stress still amazes me.

After graduation and a few moves, we settled in Mamaroneck, NY (35 min on the Metro North from NYC) where I spent my formative years. In a nutshell, I studied, got my Blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and began competitive Fencing. After high school, I was extremely lucky to attend Harvard where I majored in Biological Anthropology and Health Policy. The Varsity Fencing team was a big part of my undergraduate life and my teammate from Dearborn, MI was the one who clued me into the "good life" in the Midwest. University of Michigan medical school was my next stop. There, I met my husband Peter Barkett (MD '11) and he's been my best friend and confidant through this whole process. Emilie Johnson ('11) then introduced me to the Urology department where Dr. Wan took me through my first circ and Dr. Faerber sold me on a career as a Urologist.

Somehow, through more luck and very supportive mentors, I matched at University of Michigan for Urology residency. It has been the shortest 4.5 years of my life. Despite the frenetic pace, the foundation this department has helped me establish is solid and I am ready to get started! Peter and I will be moving to Kitsap County, WA. It is a peninsula about 1 hour west of Seattle by car or ferry, and gateway to Olympic National Park. My parents will be moving out there too to enjoy their retirement years kayaking/gardening and helping to babysit our baby boy (due Feb 14!).

Thank you to everyone in the department for all the time and attention you have dedicated to the residents. It has been great.



Hiking by the Lake Michigan dunes with Peter and our shelter schnauzer Emma.



The Chiefs.