



Meet the New Faculty: Harborview



Mehraj Baig, DO was born and raised in the blazing fires of Phoenix, Texas, where he completed medical school at Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. Mehraj completed residency and chief residency at Dell Medical School at UT Austin in Texas. Chief year made him realize how much he loves teaching clinical reasoning, and hopes to do more work with the medical students and residents at UW and Harborview! When not in the hospital, Mehraj is usually at home punishing himself with difficult video games (favorite game is Bloodborne), making a pour-over or cooking, reading fictional non-fiction or Sufism poetry, moshing at a heavy metal concert (favorite band is Iron Reagan), or taking a hike somewhere in the mountains. Mehraj says he's still getting used to not burning alive in the summer.



Shruthi Rajashekara, MD, MMSc, moved to Seattle from Houston, Texas, where she completed a postdoctoral fellowship focused on quality improvement and implementation science at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine. Prior to Houston, she completed residency in Primary Care and Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. She received her MD and Master in Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery from Harvard Medical School. Her academic interests include medical advocacy for immigration detainees and innovative solutions for healthcare delivery in resource-poor settings. In her free time, Shruthi looks forward to traveling again one day and hopes to get scuba certified. She enjoys playing tennis, yoga, and exploring all the wonderful parks and trails in Washington.



Barbara Danek-Karatasakis, MD is originally from the Czech Republic. She is proud to have witnessed the Velvet Revolution from her stroller. Shortly thereafter, her family moved to Boston, and then California, ultimately moving back to Prague when she was in high school. She completed medical school at Charles University in Prague, where she met her later-to-be husband, Aris. After medical school, Barbara moved to Texas and worked at UT Southwestern/Dallas VA Medical Center as a postdoctoral research fellow in Interventional Cardiology. She and Aris couples-matched for residency in Internal Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark. In addition to their clinical training during residency, she and Aris also completed their first half-Ironman at Lake Placid, NY. Aris' fellowship in cardiology is what brings them to Seattle, but Barbara is equally excited to be here! She is humbled to join such an accomplished and thoughtful group of hospitalists at HMC. In her free time, Barbara spends time with family, including Luna, the best border collie pup ever, and looks forward to exploring the PNW by bike, foot, and water (not necessarily in that order).



Career Update Nick Meo, MD

Nick Meo is the new Associate Medical Director of Quality and Safety at Harborview. Nick tells us: "In May 2020, I started in the role as Associate Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety at HMC. In that capacity, I get to work on a variety of interesting quality and safety initiatives collaborating with Chiefs of Service, other Associate Medical Directors, provider, nursing and other administrative leaders around HMC. In addition to this, I coordinate HMC's quality and safety programs.

What attracted me most to this opportunity is the chance to work on the leading edge of quality and safety. HMC has a strong tradition of innovation in many different areas of care (be it stroke, trauma, care for vulnerable populations) and within the quality and safety department, we have some amazing thought leaders and subject matter experts in this space. The mission driven and inclusive culture at HMC makes me feel at home. Although I have a lot to learn, I am really excited to hit the ground running. Any hospitalist looking to get involved in quality and safety work, let me know! (nmeo@uw.edu)"

Meet the New Faculty: Harborview Continued



Phillip Nickerson, MD is excited to be in Seattle and here at Harborview - so far everyone he's met in the department has been the right combination of nice and smart to make him feel at home. Phillip went to medical school in Denver, Colorado (sometimes described as Seattle without water) and then did his residency at Yale in New Haven, CT. Afterwards, Phillip worked for a year at the West Haven, CT Veterans Hospital where he got to spend a lot of time working with learners which was his favorite part of the job. Phillip envisioned ending up somewhere in the Western U.S. and had loved Seattle the few times he visited so it seemed like a good fit. Phillip was attracted to Harborview by the "mission" and idea of being able to work with underserved populations while still being attached to a major academic center. His academic interests include clinical reasoning education and curriculum design, and has worked on projects involving inpatient diagnosis and diagnostic error. When not at work, Phillip loves exploring the outdoors, bingeing TV, trying restaurants, reading, live music (which he's missed during the pandemic), baking, and spending time with friends and family. He looks forward to getting to know everyone and working to become a better doctor and human being in the year to come.



Scott Stroup, MD is originally from Richland, WA and has taken a long path in returning to Washington to work at Harborview. He completed undergraduate at Pomona College before working for a year as middle school teacher and baseball coach at University Preparatory Academy in Seattle. Scott went to medical school at Georgetown University in Washington, DC before completing residency in upstate New York at the University of Rochester Medical Center. At URMC he furthered his interest in medical education by starting a clinical skills rotation. Scott has spent the last four years as a hospitalist and perioperative medicine consultant at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, while his wife was completing her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. At OHSU, Scott furthered his interests in learner remediation, multidisciplinary education and systems improvement in transfers of care. In his spare time Scott enjoy rooting for the Chicago Cubs, golfing, running, spending time with family and his two year old black lab, Odysseus.



Cassedy Maher-Owen, DO is a native Minnesotan who completed her residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. She attended medical school at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, MO, where she met her spouse, Andrew Owen, who is now stationed in the Navy as a staff psychiatrist in Bremerton, WA (his home town), thus bringing them out to the Pacific NW. She is thrilled to be working at Harborview, because she has always wanted to work in an academic setting and feels a strong commitment to the mission of serving underserved and vulnerable, medically complex populations. Academic interests include examining bias and race in medicine, improving EHR systems, and patient-goal directed care. While not working, she enjoys watercolor painting, hiking, writing songs, playing ukulele, piano, West African flute music, and cooking/baking/making home pressed apple cider. After COVID-19 passes, she hopes to start attending live theater/music events in the city again.



Collette Abbott, MD is originally from San Diego, CA but moved to the East Coast to attend Princeton University for undergrad. After college, she spent one year doing a teaching fellowship in Thailand, and a second year working in Singapore as a Program Director for Princeton in Asia. Collette went to NYU for medical school, and then moved to Seattle to do her internship and residency at UW. She then became the UW CEPI (Clinical Education Partnership Initiative) Chief Resident in Naivasha, Kenya, where she focused on medical education and clinical care with limited resources. She is excited to be back in Seattle and feels honored to be joining the Hospitalist group at HMC. Her academic interests lie within medical education, LGBTQ health and global health. Outside the hospital, you can find her hiking, biking, kayaking and exploring the outdoors with her fiancée Morgan and rescue pup Scout.



Alice Ji, MD comes to Harborview from Boston, Massachusetts where she worked at Boston Medical Center. Before this Alice got her MD from Ohio State University College of Medicine and did her residency and internship at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. She is interested in quality improvement. Before moving here, Alice had visited Seattle multiple times and has always loved the abundance of natural beauty surrounding it.

Meet the New Faculty: Harborview Continued



Linden Brown, MD is finally returning to the Pacific NW after years away. Originally from Eugene, OR, Linden spent the last 8 years in upstate New York at the University of Rochester, where she completed her medical education, training, and first year as an academic hospitalist. There, she met her partner (now finance), Andrew, who matched at UW for Heme/Onc fellowship prompting their move to Seattle. "Moving cross country in a pandemic has been an interesting experience to say the least!" Linden is developing her academic interests, which currently include medical education, diagnostic error, and interprofessional communication among others. Linden also loves getting outside (in all capacities), traveling, and exploring restaurants.

Meet the New Provider: HMC Medicine Polytrauma Service

Led by Edie Shen, the Medicine Polytrauma Service (MPS) is a Hospital Medicine collaboration with the General Surgery division, caring for polytrauma patients without acute general surgery needs. Harborview Hospital Medicine is pleased to welcome our new colleague Lilibeth Falaminiano, DNP to our MPS team!



Lilibeth was born and raised in the Philippines. She moved to the United States with her family in 2003 to work as an RN in Montana. Lilibeth practiced as a bedside RN for 24 years before getting a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Washington. She joined Harborview Medical Center in 2006 to work as a neuro-critical care nurse. Lilibeth took per diem jobs at Northwest Kidney Center as a dialysis nurse, King County Jail as a triage nurse, and as a Continuity of Care Nurse that broadened her understanding and perspectives in taking care of vulnerable populations. Lilibeth feels fortunate to join the Medicine Polytrauma Service at Harborview because she will be working with elite groups of medical providers in managing complex trauma cases which is also an excellent opportunity for her to continue serving underprivileged populations. Outside work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter hiking and camping. In the time when outdoor activities are challenging, her family always finds a safe way to enjoy nature.

Lilibeth Vitto Falaminiano,
ARNP

Congratulations to our Newly Promoted Faculty

Pallavi Arora

Clinical Assistant Professor

Stephanie Field

Clinical Assistant Professor

Eric LaMotte

Clinical Assistant Professor

Allison Brusati

Clinical Assistant Professor

Yilin Zhang

Clinical Assistant Professor

Beau Sober

Clinical Assistant Professor

Stephen Disharoon

Clinical Assistant Professor

Susan Glass

Clinical Assistant Professor

Jody Waldron

Clinical Assistant Professor

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Recent Publications

[A Case for Targeting Th17 Cells and IL-17A in SARS-CoV-2 Infections](#). Marika Orlov, **Pandora L. Wander**, Eric D. Morrell, Carmen Mikacenic and Mark M. Wurfel. *J Immunol* July 10, 2020, ji2000554; DOI:

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