

Massachusetts Infectious Disease Society

2022 Maxwell Finland Awards for Research Fellow Excellence

BCH



Christina Manice, MD

BIDMC



Abarna Pearl, MD

BMC (Adult)



Katherine Reifler, MD

BWH



Yijia Li, MD

MGH



Alexander Tatara,
MD, PhD

Tufts



Jessica A. Penney, MD,
MPH, MS

UMass



Monica Hinstroza
Jordan, MD

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1. Christina Manice, MD, Boston Children's Hospital

Dr. Manice is passionate about optimizing the use of antimicrobials in pediatric patients through education, clinical innovation, and contribution of new evidence on best practices in antimicrobial stewardship. Dr. Manice is conducting a large-scale mixed-methods study to identify the most effective antimicrobial stewardship interventions and the policies that best drive their use. Her project has enabled her to work with a multi-center stewardship collaboration and in the future, she hopes to inform development of standards for pediatric stewardship programs.

2. Abarna Pearl, MD, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Dr Pearl completed her internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic before joining the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program. Her clinical

interests lie in infection control/ healthcare epidemiology, global health, and environmental sustainability. To this end she is undertaking the infection control/healthcare epidemiology track and aims to complete a master's degree in public health. This year Dr Pearl is carrying out a retrospective cohort study to identify potentially modifiable procedural risk factors for surgical site infection after coronary artery bypass surgery. She also worked as part of an international research collaboration to write a systematic review, commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), to understand the barriers and enablers to the global implementation of molecular WHO-recommended rapid tuberculosis (TB) diagnostics. She plans to combine her interests in global health and infection control in undertaking another systematic review synthesizing the latest evidence behind isolation practices of patients with TB, in order to inform new guidelines from the United States National TB Controllers Association. Her career aspirations are to practice general infectious diseases and hospital epidemiology, and to use her expertise to strengthen infection control/hospital epidemiology infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries.

3. Katherine Reifler, MD, Boston Medical Center

Dr. Katherine Reifler conducted a retrospective cohort analysis of patients with Chagas disease, including description of cardiac manifestations and antiparasitic treatment experience. In addition to this research project, she presented at Grand Rounds and migrant health clinics to promote provider education and awareness of Chagas disease with the goal of improving screening amongst patients who may be at risk for infection. She is also currently working on a project on the impact of routine strongyloidiasis screening in a Hematology/Oncology outpatient clinic prior to initiation of immunosuppressants that could promote disseminated infection.

4. Yijia Li, MD, Brigham & Women's Hospital

Dr. Yijia Li received his residency training at the University of Pittsburgh and fellowship training at the Mass General Brigham Combined ID program, under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Z. Li. Dr. Li's research interests include HIV persistence and immunological control, as well as SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 pathogenesis. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor at University of Pittsburgh for General ID and HIV care, as well as a junior investigator at the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study (MWCCS) group.

5. Alexander Tatara, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Tatara is a current fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital and visiting post-doctoral scholar at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering. His clinical interests include device-related infection and staphylococcal disease. As a physician and bioengineer, his research focuses on understanding how bacteria infect implanted devices and how bacteria and immune cells respond to cues from biomaterials. Dr. Tatara's current work involves the development of biomaterials-based vaccine platforms to prevent and treat device-related infection. His goals are to continue treating patients suffering from device-related infection as well as to launch his own independent research group to better understand and prevent the infection of implanted devices.

6. Jessica Penney, MD, MPH, MS, Tufts Medical Center

Dr. Jessica Penney obtained her MD and MPH from Tulane School of Medicine and School of Public Health. She then completed a combined residency in Medicine-Pediatrics at Baystate Medical Center before continuing her training at Tufts Medical Center in Infectious Disease during which time she also obtained a Master's degree in Clinical and Translational Science. Her research focused on the impact of a diagnostic stewardship intervention on institutional urine testing practices, finding significant reduction in culture rates after implementation. Additional areas of research involved the use of SARS-CoV-2 cycle threshold as method to

predict the phase of the pandemic. This year she began a position with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service as a field officer at the Southern Nevada Health District as she pursues a career in medical epidemiology and public health.

7. Monica Hinestroza Jordan, MD, UMass Memorial Medical Center

Dr. Mónica Yulieth Hinestroza Jordan, M.D. holds a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree from the Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira and practiced medicine for three years in Colombia before coming to the United States to continue her professional development. Dr. Hinestroza Jordan successfully completed her Internal Medicine residency in Philadelphia at Thomas Jefferson University. She is currently a second-year Infectious Diseases Fellow at UMass Chan Medical School and a member of the IDSA Fellows sub-committee. Dr. Hinestroza Jordan is passionate about all aspects of ID, especially the care of immunocompromised hosts and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. She is currently working on two research projects. One is focused on determining if there is any difference in the compliance and treatment effectiveness for HIV between patients with specialty pharmacies vs. commercial pharmacies. Her other research project seeks to describe the experience of the UMass Memorial system with the early treatment of COVID-19 as per the PINETREE Trial. In 2019, Dr. Hinestroza Jordan was nominated for the coveted Afro-Colombian of the year award, which helped her gain recognition from her peers across Colombia. In her spare time, Dr. Hinestroza Jordan enjoys working out, traveling, hiking, dancing, and spending time with her husband, Robert, and dog, Lupita.