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2019 AAPM DUMPAA Dinner

A Message From The President



Irina Vergalasova PhD, DABR
DUMPAA President

First, I want to sincerely thank all of my fellow alumni for allowing me to serve as your President for the past four years. It has truly been a pleasure! My favorite part was reuniting, catching up and meeting all of the new alumni faces at our AAPM dinners. And although I will no longer serve as President, I will continue to be involved in the association, as Chair of the Board of Directors. I am very glad to pass on my current role to Matthew Goss, who I know will be exceptional at leading our association as the new President. Secondly, I am really looking forward to witnessing ALL of the outstanding ideas of the new executive board come to fruition in the future. We have a truly excellent group of people that I am confident will make a positive impact on our association and offer a variety of opportunities for us all to succeed together! Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year ahead!

Sincerely,
Irina Vergalasova

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MANY THANKS TO CURRENT DUMPAA BOARD MEMBERS

Irina Vergalasova – President
Javian Malcolm – Vice President
Matthew Goss – Secretary
Cindy Qin – Treasurer
LaToya Clark & Irene Zawisza – Newsletter
Deon Dick – Activities & Events Chair

Meet the Newly Elected DUMPAA Board & Committee Chairs

Matthew Goss, MS, DABR class of 2007, President-elect: It's truly an honor to be able to step into the role of president of our alumni association. Being part of the first class in the program, I've had the pleasure of watching firsthand the Medical Physics graduate program at Duke blossom from its earliest days into a nationally and internationally-recognized academic institution. I'm excited to be able to direct the association towards delivering what the students and alumni feel will serve them best; be it networking, social interaction, or information-exchange. I'm especially excited to engage our social chair, Kristy Perez, in building on past and creating a series of new events which can increase involvement, such as sporting events, AAPM and ASTRO dinners and happy hours, and partnering with outside groups to organize fundraising benefits, hiking and backpacking trips and volunteer opportunities.

I am a senior clinical medical physicist at Allegheny health Network in Pittsburgh, PA with my wife Emily and our most recent addition (October 10, 2019), Hadley. I am heavily involved in volunteer work as a project leader for Kenya and Bolivia for the Radiating Hope Foundation, and Rayos Contra Cancer, and have been lucky enough to be able to partner with AHN and Elekta to develop and deliver lectures on treatment planning, physics and dosimetry best practices, organizational metrics, and competency and credentialing. Outside of work, I enjoy high-alpine mountaineering, playing rugby (although I'm pushing the limit of my age these days), restoring antique automobiles, sailing, skiing, studying languages and brewing beer.



Matt Goss, MS, DABR
DUMPAA President-elect

Interested in working on the next newsletter? Do you want to share your research? Interested in sharing what you're up to these days?

Contact Michael Trager or Cielle Collins at (mtrager92@gmail.com or ciellecollins10@gmail.com)

Wendy Harris, PhD: I am happy to serve as the secretary for the DUMPAA. It is a great opportunity to continually be connected to my Duke family of alumni, faculty and current students. Before Duke, I studied physics at Drexel University in Philadelphia. I am currently back in Philly, completing my residency in radiation therapy at the University of Pennsylvania. In my free time, I enjoy running, practicing yoga, and exploring the city with family and friends. I especially love the food scene in Philly and being able to try all of the great restaurants in different neighborhoods, but I am also missing all of the delicious food that Durham has to offer!



Wendy Harris, PhD
DUMPAA Secretary



LaToya Clark, MS, DABR
DUMPAA Treasurer

LaToya Clark, MS: It has been my pleasure working on the alumni board these last few years with Irene Zawisza on the newsletter. I look forward to continuing to do so in my new role as Treasurer. I currently reside in Frisco, TX with my husband and my 7-month old son. In my free time I enjoy traveling, shopping, reading, and spending time with family and friends. After being in my previous position for over 10 years, I recently started a new position as a Medical Physicist at Texas Oncology-Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center in Dallas, Texas.

Jaclyn Carroll, MS: As a recent graduate of the Duke Medical Physics Graduate Program ('18), I am so excited to get involved again as the Graduate Program Relations Committee Chair! I am currently a second year resident with a small consulting company called Versant Medical Physics & Radiation Safety. I primarily work at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, MD, learning clinical medical physics, but I also get the opportunity to work on some health physics and radiation safety projects. Outside of work, I love spending time with my fiancé, Colten, and my dog, Coop! After graduating from residency next June, I'll be moving back to North Carolina where Colten is stationed... and by that time you may be receiving emails from a different name, Jaclyn Gaylor!



Jaclyn Carroll, MS
DUMPAA Graduate Program
Relations Committee Chair



Michael Trager, MS
DUMPAA Communications
Committee Co-Chair

Michael Trager, MS: I appreciate being given the opportunity to serve as Communications Committee Co-Chair with Cielle Collins. I am especially excited to send out the annual DUMPAA newsletter to keep you all updated on your fellow Duke grads' most exciting achievements and milestones. I enjoy traveling, spending time with friends and family, snowboarding, playing sports, and staying up to date on Duke sports. I recently finished a radiation therapy residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and have since moved back to my hometown on Long Island where I now work at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as a radiotherapy physicist. Go Duke!

Cielle Collins, MS: I am so excited to be joining the Alumni Association and working as the Communications Committee Co-Chair with Mike Trager. I graduated with my MS from the Duke Medical Physics program in 2019 and am currently in my first year of the therapy residency at Brown University. At Duke I loved participating in the Medical Physics program through SLAC and becoming involved with the greater Duke community through Graduate Ushering for the basketball team. I enjoy traveling, reading, and the Providence RI foodie scene. I am definitely looking forward to the two Duke Basketball games I'll be going to this year. I am excited for the opportunity to continue my involvement with Duke and our program through this role!



Cielle Collins, MS
DUMPAA Communications
Committee Co-Chair



Liwei Zhang, MS
DUMPAA Fundraising
Committee Chair

Liwei Zhang, MS: I'm very excited to be the fundraising committee chair of our alumni association. I look forward to working with a great group and meeting new alumni and current students. As our alumni body continue to grow I'm hoping we can create more opportunity to connect with one another. Since graduating in 07, I've lived in Pasadena, CA where I enjoy the California sun all year long. I've recently quit my position at City of Hope to pursue consulting full time. I now travel frequently to remote places such as Alaska and really enjoy it.

Kristy Perez, PhD: I am grateful for the opportunity to volunteer for the Activities and Events Committee Chair over the next few years. I am very excited to bring the alumni together to share memories and create new ones. I live in Atlanta, GA with my husband (Paco Robles, Duke Med Phys PhD '11) and two daughters (Naomi 6y and Gabriela 3y). I enjoy hanging out with my family, traveling, reading, learning new things, and investing in real estate. My current full-time role is Vice President of Clinical Programs at CivaTech Oncology, a small medical device company that makes LDR brachytherapy sources. I focus on translating and commercializing our three product lines into the clinic. I am really grateful to have found a position where I do nearly full time R&D and translational research that can make meaningful improvements for patients' quality of life.

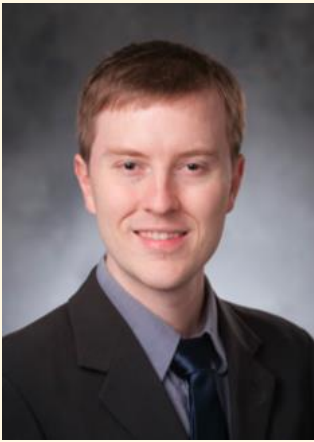


Kristy Perez, PhD, DABR
DUMPAA Activities and Events
Committee Chair



Titania Juang, PhD, DABR
DUMPAA Professional
Development Committee Chair

Titania Juang, PhD: Thank you to the alumni community for nominating me for the position of Professional Development Committee Chair; I hope to fulfill your expectations for this position over the next couple of years! I am a member of the Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences faculty at the University of California, San Diego, where I serve as the associate director of our medical physics residency, as well as the associate division director for quality assurance and assistant vice-chair of diversity and inclusion for our department. Outside of work, you can find me exploring San Diego with my dog, Cash, trying to teach myself how to play my electric bass guitar, or visiting my family in the San Francisco Bay Area.



ZACHARY DEAN SHROCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Zachary Shrock (MS '15) was the recipient of a Master's degree from the Duke Medical Physics program in 2017. Zach was loved by his mentors and colleagues alike. He was dedicated, selfless, and ever willing to help his fellow classmates, embodying his very own prophetic words: "Virtually every goal serves one of two purposes: to make life more enjoyable, or to establish a legacy.... My most cherished goal in life is to make the greatest impact I can on the world by making it a better place for the people who remain after me."

Last year the Duke community was shocked by the unexpected passing of alumnus Zachary Shrock. Zach completed his Master's degree in 2017 and enrolled in a residency program at Scott and White Medical Center in Temple, Texas. During his time at Duke, Zach was an integral part of the Medical Physics program. He served in multiple capacities including as a student representative on the Medical Physics Administrative Council in the 2016-2017 academic year. As a student, he remained in excellent academic standing, maintained a high-quality research portfolio, and published a technical note in Medical Physics. He is remembered lovingly as a model student, and a colleague who was committed to doing right by others, even when doing so might inconvenience him.

Following the tragic news, classmates of Zach and Duke faculty members banded together to create an annual scholarship to honor his memory. The Zachary Dean Shrock Memorial Scholarship is awarded to one rising second-year Master's student who embodies the spirit of Zach on the basis of their research merit, leadership, and service to Duke University Graduate Program in Medical Physics. The award amount of \$1000 is intended to assist the recipient in their attendance of a scientific conference, or enhance their professional development. Funding for this award was raised by the DUMPAA, Duke Medical Physics Graduate Program, and Zach's friends and family. It was heartwarming to have such a great response by those looking to honor Zach's memory by contributing and thereby allowing this scholarship to materialize.

Sabrina Campelo (pictured below) was chosen as the first recipient of the Zachary Dean Shrock Memorial Scholarship. She was awarded the scholarship during the 2019 Duke Medical Physics graduation ceremony. We look forward to future years of this award and hope it keeps the memory of Zach alive in the Duke Medical Physics Graduate Program.

If interested, contributions to the scholarship fund can still be made at the following address gifts.duke.edu under *Zachary Dean Shrock Memorial Scholarship*.





An Introduction to Radiating Hope

Kristy Perez, PhD DABR – Activities and Events Committee Chair

New Year, New Board, New Activities

As we all progress in our careers and lives, we would like to provide opportunities for our alumni to connect with each other and to continue building on our professional and personal relationships.

One opportunity is a **Climb up Mount Kilimanjaro with Radiating Hope**. Radiating Hope is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2009 that provides radiation equipment and training to developing nations. They focus on improving radiation oncology care around the globe. A worthy cause that we are all specially trained to support. (<https://appliedradiationoncology.com/articles/radiatinghope-a-decade-in-global-radiation-oncology>)

The organization offers adventures around the globe. Details can be found on their website. **The Mount Kilimanjaro trip is June 14-22, 2020.** (Don't worry about the signup deadline listed. They can add people to this trip for a few more months.) Radiating Hope coordinates these trips annually, so if 2020 isn't your year...there is always next year. (<https://www.radiatinghope.org/2020-climbing-adventures.html>)

The Mount Kilimanjaro trip was chosen because there is a teaching hospital at the base of the mountain that Duke helps to support. Also, there is an international conference following the trip. Radiating Hope has opportunities for therapy and imaging physicists to help train people, commission systems, test/evaluate equipment, etc. You don't have to climb Kilimanjaro to go to the conference or volunteer.

Considering this worthy cause, we'd like to use their platform to get our Duke Medical Physics Alumni together. The plan is for a **FUN** trip hiking up for 5 days and down for 2 days. You can't get farther from that windowless basement than the highest peak in Africa. Come stretch your legs, get some fresh air, and hang out. Please take a look at the details in the Google spreadsheet.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dMliXJTessFwSRP6nw_OGAwSCu1RPqV_aVd7Au4ARf4/edit?usp=sharing

We will register through Radiating Hope's website, but coordinate with each other through the Google Spreadsheet.



President-elect Matthew Goss



A Message from Radiating Hope Volunteer

Matthew Goss, MS DABR – DUMPAA President-elect

I have been personally involved with Radiating Hope (RH) for 4 years, first as a project lead in Kenya and most recently as a lead in Bolivia. I was immediately drawn to the mission of this organization, being able to apply my skills as a Medical Physicist to enhance the access to cancer care worldwide.

I have found Radiating Hope’s members and volunteers to be truly amazing, dedicated people, and I have enjoyed working with them closely. Most recently in La Paz, Bolivia, I was invited to give lectures on Medical Physics best practices for radiation therapy, and am helping develop a consortium of physicists who can cross train, share information, shadow each other and participate in regional and international staff exchange with sites in the US.

I’ve also been fortunate to be able to raise awareness of RH and their work through hikes and climbs, and will be looking forward to their upcoming trips. I would urge anyone with an interest in volunteering or a passion for education and travel to become involved, and help lend their expertise and time to the underserved and underprivileged.



<http://radiatinghope.org>

<https://www.eldiario.net/movil/?n=45&a=2019&m=09&d=03>

Alumni News

Irene Zawisza (MS '15) got engaged to her loving fiancé Dylan Boll in March and will be married in July 2020. They have adopted Moose, a Chocolate Lab, to their family.

Katie Albanese (MS '16) recently passed the New York State Bar and is now a patent attorney at Greenberg Traurig in NYC.

Gretchen Raterman Bell (MS '13) had a baby July 19, 2019 named Noah James Christopher Bell. Gretchen was married to his father, James Bell, October 27, 2018.

Jake Hoberg (MS '12) recently changed jobs. He is still a clinical medical physicist in radiation oncology, and is now working with SCL Health in Denver, CO.



Irene Zawisza and fiancé Dylan Boll



LaToya Clark (née Crayton) (MS '09) was married to Jemall Clark in January 2018. They welcomed a son, Josiah Earl Clark, in May 2019.

Adria Vidovic (MS '13) became board certified this year and gave birth to her second son, Niko on October 25, 2019. Mama and baby are doing great and the family is thrilled with their new addition.



Children of Adria Vidovic

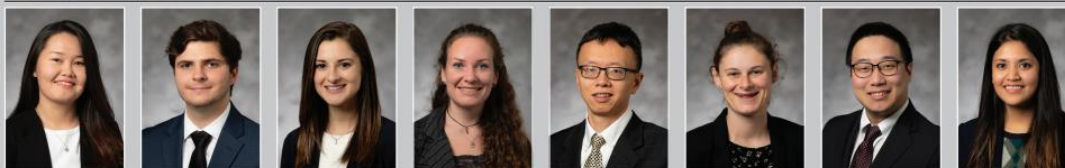


Son of LaToya Clark

2019 MEDICAL PHYSICS GRADUATE PROGRAM



MS GRADUATES



Zhanerke Abisheva
2017 - 2019

Andrew James Balleisio
2017 - 2019

Julia Elizabeth
Bresticker
2017 - 2019

Caley J. Buxton
2016 - 2019

Yuan Cheng
2017 - 2019

Cielle Elyse Collins
2017 - 2019

Chuan He
2017 - 2019

Sagarika Jain
2017 - 2019



Matthew Charles Japzon
2017 - 2019

Ruiqi Li
2017 - 2019

Xinyi Li
2017 - 2019

Matthew T. Mistro
2017 - 2019



Naomi Morales-Medina
2016 - 2019

David John Nacouzi
2017 - 2019

Jonathan Pham
2017 - 2019

Xinyi Shen
2017 - 2019



Brianna Rochelle Smiley
2017 - 2019

Stefan Matthias Stryker
2017 - 2019

PhD GRADUATES



Yingxuan Chen
2016 - 2019

Brent Alan Fallin
2013 - 2019

Kyle Jon Lafata
2015 - 2019

Paul Yoon
2013 - 2019

Lei Zhang
2014 - 2019



Wen-Chih Tseng
2017 - 2019

Jingxi Weng
2017 - 2019