

Pathways to the Medical Field – Presenter Bios

Laura Favaza, D.O.; Osteopathic resident

Laura graduated cum laude from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry in 2008. She then received a doctorate of osteopathic medicine from Michigan State University in 2013. Currently, Laura is a fourth year anatomic and clinical pathology resident at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. For the past 2 years, she has been chief resident and secretary of the house staff council for the past year. Laura will graduate in June, and then head to New York City for a fellowship in oncologic surgical pathology at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Meagan Richardson-Salisbury, M.S.; Biomedical Engineer

The decision to pursue the medical field was made early in life, but the sector of medicine Meagan wanted to work in seemed to change daily. Initially, she planned to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery, but changed her focus to biomedical engineering after a teacher mentioned it to her. Meagan completed her undergraduate studies at Lawrence Technological University, earning a B.S. in biomedical engineering with a concentration in chemistry. During her undergraduate studies, she volunteered in the Orthopedic Research Laboratory at Beaumont Hospital, and was later hired on as an intern. Once she completed her bachelor's degree, Meagan took a semester off of school to focus on her work as a full time Research Engineer I in the Ortho Research Lab. She then attended Wayne State University where she completed a Master of Science degree in biomedical engineering with a focus in biomaterials and tissue engineering. Meagan currently works as a Research Engineer II in the Ortho Research lab, where she conducts and supervises basic science research focused on biomaterials and tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine research.

Kathy Salisbury, R.N., B.S.N.; Nursing Administrator

Kathy's path to a bachelor's degree in Nursing was not traditional – she already had a bachelor's in biology, but wanted to pursue a 2nd bachelor's in Nursing. She was accepted to Oakland University's Accelerated 2nd degree program where she earned her BSN in a very intense one-year program. Prior to receiving her first bachelor's degree in biology, she obtained an associate's degree in science at St. Clair County Community College. Kathy has been a Registered Nurse (RN) for 8 years, spending 4 of those years working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). She currently works in case management at St. John Hospital & Medical Center in Detroit.

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Amit Vahia, M.D.; Infectious Disease Fellow

Amit graduated from the Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Afterward, he completed his medical education at Wayne State University and Internal Medicine Residency at Henry Ford Health System. Amit then enrolled in the Epidemiology graduate program at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health to pursue his interest in academic research. His current projects include studying cardiovascular outcomes in patients presenting to the Emergency Department, and antimicrobial regimens used in the treatment of respiratory infections in Nicaragua. After completing his Master's Degree studies, Amit will begin his fellowship in Infectious Diseases with a concentration on hospital epidemiology, infection prevention and control. During his career, he hopes to both engage medical students and residents in their clinical training as well as collaborate with government health officials to improve health outcomes at the population level. Outside the classroom, Amit enjoys playing guitar, ballroom dance, tennis, and traveling.

Alexandria Vintevoghel, R.D., M.S.; Dietitian

Alexandria received a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics from Kent State University in 2013, where she was a student athlete in track and field. She began working as a nutritionist for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) out of Detroit in September 2014. In order to become a registered dietitian, an internship is required. Alexandria took a non-traditional internship route through her employer, WIC, and Michigan State University, which she completed in 2016. She is currently still employed at WIC and will start a new position this month at Inner Door Center in Royal Oak, an outpatient, yoga-based eating disorder clinic that focuses on mindful eating and wellness. Her overall goal as a Registered Dietitian is to focus on how eating disorders affect athletes and help athletes achieve optimal performance through their diet.