



Adetayo Oladele-Ajose is the child of Nigerian immigrants and grew up between rural Iowa and Nigeria. She graduated high school at 15 and earned degrees in Biomedical Engineering and Spanish at the University of Iowa, where she also competed as the youngest Division I NCAA track athlete in the nation. She is now an ophthalmology resident at the University of Iowa, serving as resident director for the Iowa Medical Society Board and conducting research to expand access to diabetic retinopathy screenings in resource-limited regions.



Caio Pluvier Duarte Costa is a General Surgery resident at the Hospital Federal dos Servidores do Estado in Rio de Janeiro and a medical officer in the Brazilian Navy. He graduated from Universidade Federal Fluminense and completed an internship at the University of Bristol, receiving the “Outstanding Resident” award. He serves as General Surgery editor for Whitebook Afya and contributes to ACS Clinical Congress research, with a focus on humanitarian initiatives and advancing global surgery in trauma and oncology.



Elise Presser is a fourth-year general surgery resident at Yale University applying to a vascular surgery fellowship. She earned her MD and a Master’s in Population Health at Brown University, along with an MSc in Control of Infectious Diseases from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Her work includes surgical needs assessments of Syrian refugees, NIH Fogarty–supported research on surgical access disparities, and strengthening Ethiopia’s trauma system, with career goals integrating vascular surgery practice in the U.S. and global

health collaborations.



Fayrouz Abu-Hamdan is a general surgery resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin and a U.S. Army veteran with over 15 years of service, including a decade as a combat medic. She is pursuing a Master of Science in Global Health Equity through a global surgery research fellowship, conducting projects in Ethiopia and Rwanda focused on strengthening trauma and emergency care systems. Dr. Abu-Hamdan is committed to advancing access to surgical and prehospital care through sustainable, community-based solutions.



Henry Olano Soler is a general surgery resident at Baylor College of Medicine and a member of the Global Surgery Track. Originally from Colombia, he previously worked at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and holds an MD from the University of Miami and a Master of Public Health. His research focuses on low-cost, scalable strategies to strengthen cardiac surgical capacity in low-resource settings through global partnerships.



Maia Nofal is a general surgery resident at Boston Medical Center and a former NIH Fogarty Global Health Equity Scholar at Stanford. Her research focuses on surgical quality improvement in low-resource settings, with projects in Ethiopia and Rwanda that have strengthened infection prevention practices and expanded antimicrobial stewardship programs. Dr. Nofal is committed to advancing evidence-based strategies for building sustainable surgical systems in resource-constrained environments.



Rachel Gorenflo is a general surgery resident at the University of Texas Medical Branch and is pursuing a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Global Health. She earned her MD from the John A. Burns School of Medicine, where she received Certificates of Distinction in Social Justice and Medical Education and developed an interdisciplinary elective on social justice. Inspired by her upbringing in the Democratic Republic of Congo, she is dedicated to advancing equitable surgical care in low-resource settings through sustainable global health initiatives.



Sanjhai Ramdeen is a general surgery resident at Geisinger and a T32 research fellow in the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on quality improvement addressing gaps in cardiothoracic surgery outcomes and workforce development. She aspires to become a cardiac surgeon-scientist dedicated to advancing the field through research, advocacy, mentorship, and global surgery.



Shinji Strain is a general surgery resident at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and part of the joint 4/3 thoracic surgery program. He earned his MD/PhD at The University of Texas Medical Branch, where his doctoral research focused on developing a clinical assay for detecting the cancer biomarker 2-hydroxyglutarate. He aspires to a career caring for patients with thoracic malignancies and foregut pathology while advancing global health initiatives in thoracic surgery.



Xinyi (Cathy) Luo is an aspiring pediatric surgeon with a focus on global surgery and education. Raised in China and having lived in Canada, Australia, and Malawi, she brings diverse cultural perspectives to her work, including a year in Malawi as a Fogarty fellow addressing neonatal mortality. She serves as IMPRESS program director at Tulane Surgery and CoSEF team and is committed to surgical education. She also pursues personal interests in skydiving, travel, scuba diving, flying, and painting.