



Meet the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellows!



Where the world comes for answers



Dana Apkon

Med School: Tufts University School of Medicine

Residency: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Hometown: Woodbridge, CT

Research Project: Neurodevelopmental outcomes and NICU follow-up, incorporating development-protective strategies in the NICU

What I like to do for fun: Trying new restaurants, reading, baking

What I like about Boston: All the green space and close-by beaches! Every neighborhood has something fun to explore, lots of fun museums in the city, lots of fun day trips or weekend trips throughout New England

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: So many people with varied experiences to learn from! Really nice community across all 4 hospitals, different NICU follow-up experiences



Tanima Arora

Med School: Government Medical College

Residency: University of Texas Health Science Center

Hometown: Grateful to have 2! Sydney, Australia and Chandigarh, India

Research Project: Applications of AI/ML in understanding complex neonatal diseases and improving outcomes

What I like to do for fun: I love travelling and exploring, trying new restaurants and cafes, long walks in midst of nature and hosting tea parties!

What I like about Boston: Adore the seasons (especially Fall), the electric vibe of the city, and the fact that all different landscapes are at your disposal (from the mountains to the sea, everything is close!)

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: Wonderful co-fellows and faculty, diverse patient populations, clinical settings and practice styles that we are exposed to and being in the hub of academic excellence



Haritha Aribindi

Med School: Medical College of Georgia

Residency: Boston Combined Residency Program

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Research Interest: NOWS and Developmental Outcomes,
Global Health

What I like to do for fun: Reading, traveling, hiking

What I like about Boston: Lots of green spaces, great food options, everything about the fall, not needing a car

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal

Program: My co-fellows are the best! The attendings are kind and very interested in your learning. The program director are very invested in your learning. I also am getting my MPH at Harvard through the program!



Rawan Al - Rawi

Med School: Jordan University of Science and Technology

Residency: University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Hometown: Baghdad, Iraq

Research Interest: cardiopulmonary diseases

What I like to do for fun: horse riding or just hang out with friends

What I like about Boston: I love sightseeing and the history around every corner of Boston

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: I really like that we cover four different hospitals with different systems, this advantage prepares you well for whatever job you will end up doing.



Katie Ballantyne

Med School: University of Central Florida College of Medicine

Residency: BCRP (Boston Combined Residency Program)

Hometown: Orlando, Florida

Research Interest: NICU infectious diseases, early onset sepsis, antimicrobial stewardship

What I like to do for fun: hiking, reading, being outdoors, going to coffee shops, traveling, watching sports

What I like about Boston: big city with a small-town feel, the sports, green spaces, seasons, surrounding New England area

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: the people, the connections, and the diversity of experiences across 4 different NICUs



Kimberley Banfield

Med School: University of the West Indies

Residency: University of Miami

Hometown: Barbados

Research Project: Stem-cell based approaches to the treatment of neonatal diseases, palliative care

What I like to do for fun: Run, play tennis, high-intensity interval training, long walks on the beach or in nature, reading, cooking, gardening, spending time with family

What I like about Boston: Boston is a beautiful, sophisticated city with a rich history and so much nature to enjoy - from the Emerald Necklace to the beautiful Charles River

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal

Program: Extremely supportive, welcoming and kind faculty and staff who are focused on fellows' education and wellness, countless research and mentorship opportunities, ability to train at 4 different hospitals and wonderful co-fellows



Christian Cano - Guerra

Med School: University of the Oriente

Residency: Tufts Medical Center

Hometown: Caracas/Cumaná, Venezuela

Research Interest: Clinical & QI

What I like to do for fun: Eat and try new food and places, share time with my niece and nephew

What I like about Boston: Small town, cosmopolitan feel, a lot of good places to go each season, tons of good food

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal

Program: Different research interest of the faculty and research endeavors, multiple training sites when you learn manage one pathology in multiple ways



Lauren Claus

Med School: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Residency: Massachusetts General Hospital

Hometown: Mansfield, MA

Research Interest: Health services research, volume-targeted ventilation quality improvement

What I like to do for fun: Exploring restaurants, reading and writing, non-athletic outdoor adventures

What I like about Boston: Kayaking in the Charles River, relaxing at Revere Beach, taking the public transportation ferry or riding on the bike paths during the summer, exploring the city's museums during the winter

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: So many things! Mentorship, strong community, unique variety of clinical experiences



Mafe Diaz Soto

Med School: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Residency: University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital

Hometown: Santo Domingo, DR

Research Interest: Neonatal Kidney and Neurodevelopmental outcomes

What I like to do for fun: Try out new coffee spots and new restaurants, reading, watching true crime documentaries, going to the movies, exploring new cities, spending time with my boyfriend and cats and recently started running again and trying out Padel

What I like about Boston: Absolutely obsessed with how walkable the city is and the amount of greenery surrounding it! Very excited to continue exploring it since I'm new to the city!

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: I love the broad experience it offers across 4 different sites, the different career mentors available to you and how truly supportive everyone has been. My class is my favorite part <3



Caitlin Duncan

Med School: Stritch School of Medicine

Residency: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Research Interest: HIE/neonatal neurology/neuroprotection

What I like to do for fun: anything outdoors, nearly any form of exercise, reading, cooking, spending time with family, friends, and pets

What I like about Boston: So many fun things to do in the summer (pop-up breweries, outdoor exercise classes, nearby hiking, Cape Cod ferry) – can't wait for fall, spring, and winter!

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: Diverse training environments with abundant research and mentorship opportunities. I know I will graduate this program as a phenomenal neonatologist. On top of that, the training environment is kind, supportive, and full of amazing people.



Allison Fialkowski

Med School: Harvard Medical School

Residency: The Boston Combined Residency Program

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Research Interest: NICU follow-up

What I like to do for fun: Run, dog walk, coffee walk, wine nights with friends

What I like about Boston: It's truly the most beautiful city. Something beautiful and fun in every season. Very walkable. I'm obsessed. (Ask me about how much I love Brookline).

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: Getting to work with people who are so lovely but also so passionate about neonatology (and their niche within NICU). And the opportunity to work in Boston/live in Brookline.



Jake Griffin

Med School: Tufts University School of Medicine

Residency: Washington University in St. Louis/SLCH

Hometown: Billerica, MA

Research Interest: Congenital Heart Disease, Hemodynamics, Palliative Care, Prenatal Consultation

What I like to do for fun: Explore new restaurants, coffee shops and playgrounds with family – 2-year-old and 4-month-old keep me busy!

What I like about Boston: Four seasons, restaurants, parks and overall walkability. Super easy to travel to the rest of New England and New York.

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: Wealth of opportunities across 4 different NICUs – exposure to various research and career mentors, clinical practices, and training opportunities.



Jennifer Lee

Med School: Washington University in St. Louis

Residency: Boston Children's/Boston Medical Center

Hometown: Dublin, CA

Research Interest: developing computational methods to integrate diverse data streams and improve both diagnosis and prognostication

What I like to do for fun: reading, running, eating, and traveling (especially while spending time with my husband (Matt) and my famiLEE!)

What I like about Boston: a city that feels homey—not too big and not too small! Plenty of activities to do on the weekend, and you can walk/run along the Charles in all seasons (but fall is a personal fave).

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: the people! Everyone is incredibly accomplished but also so humble and kind. I learn something new on every shift!



Lauren Lee

Med School: David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Residency: Boston Combined Residency Program

Hometown: Cambridge, MA & Tenafly, NJ

Research Interest: Neonatal nutrition

What I like to do for fun: Trying new restaurants and coffee shops, sleeping, traveling, going on long walks (not runs)

What I like about Boston: It's a walkable, beautiful city that doesn't feel too big! Easy to get around to other parts of the northeast without a car, including to visit my dog back home in NJ.

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: The people – everyone is super collegial/willing to teach and I feel lucky to have amazing co-fellows!! :) Also the unique experience of working across 4 hospitals and wealth of research/other opportunities.



Sitarah Mathias

Med School: St John's Medical College, Bangalore, India

Residency: Boston Children's Hospital

Hometown: Bangalore, India

Research Interest: Neonatal AKI and Global Health

What I like to do for fun: Walks/adventures with my kids, swimming, trying new recipes and knitting, trying new coffee shops and different types of coffee

What I like about Boston: lots of parks and green spaces, close to the beach and mountains, plenty of coffee shops to explore and lots of history!!

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: 4 different hospitals with different strengths and exposures makes it an all-round experience + a wealth of different mentors to choose from. Extremely supportive program in achieving personal and professional goals!



Marcus Mosley

Med School: CUNY School of Medicine

Residency: Columbia

Hometown: Hartsdale, NY

Research Interest: Health services, health equity, neurodevelopment, and narrative medicine

What I like to do for fun: Try new restaurants and bars, read, attend the theater, cycle, and work out.

What I like about Boston: The fantastic restaurant scene, beautiful views along the Charles River, and being close to Provincetown.

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: The clinical exposure to rare and complex conditions, as well as the excellent research and networking opportunities that come from having access to faculty and resources across multiple institutions.



Ariana Meltzer-Bruhn

Med School: Perelman School of Medicine @ UPenn

Residency: Boston Combined Residency Program

Hometown: Alexandria, VA

Research Interest: NEC, ELBW and improving long-term outcomes, global health

What I like to do for fun: Marathon running, tennis, gardening (and giving my co-fellows fresh picked veggies), cooking, farmers markets, traveling with my husband, cocktail making

What I like about Boston: Very walkable, lots of parks and ability to be by the water, good restaurants, easy to explore the northeast for weekend trips, leaf peeping in the Fall

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: I am obsessed with my co-fellows (genuinely can't say enough amazing things about them and how close we have gotten), exposure to multiple hospital settings, working with the most complex babies, very hands on



Tatyana Olivari

Med School: Emory

Residency: Northwestern/Lurie Children's

Hometown: Seattle, WA/Westwood, MA

Research Interest: Nutritional and growth disparities in the NICU

What I like to do for fun: experiment with elaborate baking projects, take day trips to coastal New England towns, go to the symphony

What I like about Boston: It's a small town with big energy! So much to do and yet, so walkable!

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: the opportunity to work alongside world-renowned researchers and clinicians in an environment that feels incredibly welcoming. Despite their accomplishments, everyone is approachable and down-to-earth, which creates a supportive atmosphere!



Aimilia Papathanasiou

Med School: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Residency: Cincinnati Children's

Hometown: Megara, Greece

Research Interest: Basic and translational research in cardiopulmonary biology and pathophysiology, with a particular focus on BPD and pulmonary hypertension

What I like to do for fun: Traveling, spending time with friends, exploring new restaurants

What I like about Boston: The mix of city life, history, great food, and easy access to the coast and outdoors.

What I like about the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Program: The opportunity to train across four different hospitals, the breadth of research opportunities, and the incredibly supportive community, from my fellow class to faculty!

