

SARAH FITZLAFF

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EDUCATION:

2016-present: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (VUSM) Nashville, TN
Pursuing Doctor of Medicine Degree (expected May 2020)

2012-2016: Missouri State University (MSU) Honors College Springfield, MO
BS in Cell and Molecular Biology with Chemistry minor
Summa cum laude

HONORS/AWARDS:

2019: 3rd Place in Medical Division Poster Contest at Meharry/Vanderbilt/
Tennessee State Cancer Partnership's Annual Cancer Symposium

2016-present: VUSM Collins Scholarship

2016-present: VUSM Annette Schaffer Eskind Scholarship

2016-present: VUSM 1962 School of Medicine Class Scholarship

2016: Presidential Volunteer Service Award

- Complete 100 community service hours in 12 months

2013: Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society Inductee

2012-2016: MSU Board of Governors Scholarship

- Maintain above a 3.5 GPA and complete 120 community service hours

LEADERSHIP:

2018-present: Co-Chair, Pathology Interest Group, VUSM

- Organize events for group, mentor students interested in pathology

2014-2016: Ambassador, Office of Student Engagement, MSU

- Host leadership training, organize events, advise campus student leaders

SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- 2019-present: Berea-Vanderbilt Near-Peer Mentoring Program
- Provide advice and support to low-income, first-generation college students through the medical school application process
- 2018: Undergraduate Training in Genomics Medical Student Workshop Volunteer, American Society for Clinical Pathology Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- Engage in pilot case-based learning sessions and provide feedback to shape curriculum aimed at building medical student genomic literacy
- 2017-present: Best Buddies Friendship Program, VUSM
- Friend to person with intellectual or developmental disability
- 2016-present: Shade Tree Clinic, VUSM
- Volunteer and peer educator at student-run free clinic serving 350 uninsured patients in Nashville area with a budget greater than \$150,000
 - Provide direct patient care while mentoring junior students in physical diagnosis, clinical skills, and forming differential diagnoses
- 2014: Living Waters Ranch, Osceola, MO
- Facilitate Fun Run, aid in construction of handicap bathrooms and maintenance of farm
- 2013: International Student Volunteers, South Africa
- Helderberg Hospital: shadow providers, distribute meals, sanitize beds
 - Lwandle Township pre-school: plan and deliver basic health and hygiene lessons, distribute donations

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- 2019: Course Director, Med-School 101, VUSM
- Develop and conduct a 3-week course for gifted high-school students, create curricular plans, arrange clinical experiences, implement variety of teaching sessions and activities
- 2018: Volunteer, Phlebotomy Training, VUSM
- Organize and provide instruction/support to first-year medical students as they learn and practice phlebotomy

2015-2016: Teaching Assistant, Human Anatomy, MSU

- Appointed by faculty and campus tutoring center
- Organize and deliver group tutoring/study sessions for students enrolled in Anatomy course

2015-2016: Teaching Assistant, Human Genetics, MSU

- Appointed by faculty and campus tutoring center
- Organize and deliver group tutoring/study sessions for students enrolled in Human Genetics course

RESEARCH:

2018-present: Pathology Epidemiologic Research

Beta-catenin Expression in a Spectrum of Benign and Premalignant Endometrial Lesions Associated with Squamous Morular Metaplasia

- Mentor: Jaclyn Watkins, M.D., Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC)
- Status: Presented as poster at national meeting; manuscript drafted
- Description: studying immunohistochemical staining patterns in endometrial cancer precursor lesions and their association with progression to carcinoma

2018-2019: Pathology Quality Improvement Scholarship

Improving Patient Satisfaction in Gyn-Onc Clinic by Increasing Understanding of Pathological Diagnosis

- Mentor: Ronald Alvarez, M.D., M.B.A., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, VUMC
- Status: Completed, poster presentation at local meeting
- Description: surveyed patients in clinic for insight into improving patient understanding of diagnosis and satisfaction with process, developed patient-centered pathology reports

- 2018-2019: Laboratory Quality Improvement Scholarship
Improving Laboratory Ordering at a Student-run Clinic for Underserved Populations
- Mentor: Michael Fowler, M.D., Department of Medicine, VUMC
 - Status: Completed
 - Description: work with upper level medical students and laboratory directors to improve lab ordering by building/modifying panels in EPIC
- 2018-2019: Pathology Quality Improvement Scholarship
Reducing Unnecessary Immunostain and Special Stain Ordering in Surgical Pathology
- Mentor: James Lewis, Jr., M.D., and Eszter Szentirmai, M.D., Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, VUMC
 - Status: research currently ongoing
 - Description: surveyed pathologists' knowledge of staining costs, collect data on number and types of stains ordered, provide data to department to better understand if knowledge of cost and stains affects ordering practices
- 2014-2016: Biology Bench Research
Characterization of the Skeletal Phenotype in Idua-W392X Knock-in Mice as a Model of Mucopolysaccharidosis Type I
- Mentor: Amanda Brodeur, M.D. Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences, MSU
 - Status: presented as poster at local meeting, research currently ongoing
 - Roles: carry out enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to quantitate levels of TRACP 5b to estimate osteoclast number in IDUA knock-in mice

POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

1. Fitzlaff, S., Beeghly-Fadiel, A., Quick, C., Wright, M., Podoll, M., Watkins, J. Beta-catenin Expression in a Spectrum of Benign and Premalignant Endometrial Lesions Associated with Squamous Morular Metaplasia
 - United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology's (USCAP) Annual Meeting - National Harbor, MD. March 2019.
 - Meharry/Vanderbilt/Tennessee State Cancer Partnership Annual Symposium - Nashville, TN. February 2019.
2. Fitzlaff, S., Roman, O., Alvarez, R. Improving Patient Satisfaction in Gyn-Onc Clinic by Increasing Understanding of Pathological Diagnosis
 - Foundations of Healthcare Delivery Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Poster Session – Nashville, TN. January 2019.
3. Owensby, C., Guyll, J., Fitzlaff, S., Biel, S., Finch, S., Thompson, K., Brodeur, A. Characterization of the Skeletal Phenotype in Idua-W392X Knock-in Mice as a Model of Mucopolysaccharidosis Type I
 - MSU McQueary College of Health and Human Services Student Research Annual Symposium – Springfield, MO. May 2016.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES:

- Taking walks with my two rescue dogs (Bear and Shae)
- Clay sculpture