



Congratulations Graduating Class 2021!

Gathered via Zoom with friends and family near and far, 2021 saw thirteen students graduate from the Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program.

Everyone in the Class of 2021 matched at institutions across the country, including five right here in New York.

See the announcement [here](#) to read where everyone matched.



Gateways 2021, Remote Research!

Facing the challenge of another remote summer, Gateways to the Laboratory took the opportunity to rethink our virtual undergraduate research program and introduce innovative new elements to provide a research experience to participants unable to physically be in the labs. Adding a three-week intensive course in computational methods (using R and Python) and creating an opportunity for some of our MD-PhD students to take on more of a leadership role as Big Sib Coordinators, we ran a full 10-week summer research program, pairing all [18 students](#) with labs doing computational research.



Click [here](#) to read more about the 2021 Gateways program.



We are planning to have our 2022 Gateways students on campus and physically in labs, and applications are open now through February 1, 2022. If you know of any freshmen or sophomores from underrepresented backgrounds planning to pursue an MD-PhD, please [send them our way!](#) If you are a recent Gateways alum with an update (graduation, matriculation, internship, etc.), please [let us know!](#)

Welcome to Tri-I MD-PhD Director (and alumna) Dr. Katharine Hsu!

At the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, the Tri-I MD-PhD Program Dr. Katharine Hsu, MD, PhD, an alumna of the program (class of 1994), took the helm as Director. Kathy officially addresses the Tri-I community with a welcome and introductory letter:



If you had asked me in 1988 when I matriculated as an MD-PhD student at the Cornell University Medical College (as it was called then) that I would eventually inherit the reins from Olaf Andersen, I would have had quite a laugh. And yet, the futures for which Olaf and the Tri-I MSTP prepared us made this a natural conclusion. Following an internal medicine residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, I returned to New York to complete a fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where I remained as faculty on the Bone Marrow Transplantation service and where my laboratory research has focused on natural killer cells and their role in cancer immunology. Throughout my training and career, the message that physician-scientists can make broad and meaningful impacts on human health has rung true. Laboratory efforts started in my lab have led to cell therapy trials and novel donor selection algorithms for transplant patients.

Click [here](#) to read all of Kathy's letter.

First Recipients of the Olaf S. Andersen Physician-Scientist Award

Created by the incoming Class of 2017 in 2020 to honor the legacy and impact of Olaf Andersen, this award was given for the first time in the spring of 2021. The multi-faceted nature of this award—and the strength of this year's nominees—made it very difficult to select one awardee. Thus, for the inaugural award, we actually had three recipients who split the prize equally.



The recipients of the 2021 Olaf S. Andersen Physician Award are: Sanjee Baksh, Meg Fabiszak, and Phil Nussenzweig.

[Read more](#) about this award and the students who received it.



External Funding Successes

Continuing an impressive run of grant writing, nine Tri-I MD-PhD students have received F30 awards from the NIH in 2021 (so far!): [Alexandru Barbulescu](#), [Kevin Boehm](#), [Neville Dusat](#), [Abood](#), [Abuhashem](#), [Alex Talishinsky](#), [Yilun Ma](#), [Camila Villasante](#), [Dalton Banh](#), and [Jesse Novak](#).

Our students have received an average of 70% of the F30/F31 fellowships for which they have submitted proposals over the last four years. Very impressive, everyone!



Welcome Incoming Class of 2021!



On July 5 we welcomed 22 new students into the program. And though the pandemic prevented us from throwing our traditional Program-wide welcome barbeque, we were very happy to have them all here on campus from the get-go. This newest cohort of Tri-I's hail from across the country and include three Gateways alumni.

Not wasting any time, in addition to their summer lab rotations and first-year courses, the incoming class of 2021 took on the organizational responsibilities of the [Anti-Racism Journal Club](#) began by their predecessors.

Visit the [student directory](#) to see the students in this class.



Thank you to all contributors to Olaf's Farewell!

We received over 300 notes, photographs, and memories to include in Olaf's farewell gift. Thank you, All!

On the Tri-I Horizon...

In the fall of 2021, we interviewed 79 impressive applicants for the MD-PhD program. The admissions committee will soon announce the decisions and we will begin preparations for Revisit Day in the spring of 2022.

As always, you can [contribute to the Olaf S. Andersen, M.D. Fund for Physician-Scientist Training](#). This fund has supported travel expenses for low-income applicants visiting the campus for interviews, guest lectures, and established an award for current MD-PhD students. The most recent campaign raised \$16,725.

In 2022, we will celebrate 50 years of the Tri-I MD-PhD Program (1972-2022)! There will be a celebration, in some form. Keep an eye out for upcoming information!

Keep up with the research of our students by visiting the [Student Publications](#) section of our website.

We love to hear from our alumni! Please [keep us updated](#) with all of your news and accomplishments.

Have you been forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe? [Emails](#) are always welcome!