

2018–20 RESEARCH RESIDENTS



Sara Daniel, MD, 2018–2020

Dr. Daniel is working with the newly created University of Washington Tumor Immunology and Microenvironment (UW TIME) lab group, which comprises multiple faculty from the Departments of Surgery, Medicine, and Pathology. Building off previous work by lab members on the tumor slice culture model, Dr. Daniel's primary focus is evaluating the effects of hypoxia on the cancer microenvironment, particularly the immunosuppressive effects exhibited by the stroma and infiltrating lymphocyte phenotypes. While immunotherapy has previously had limited effects on pancreatic adenocarcinoma and other solid tumors, a better understanding of the interactions between tumors as well as the spatial relationships and metabolism of cells in the tumor environment will allow combination immunotherapy to activate intratumoral T cells. She is also working on a clinical trial with her primary mentor, Dr. **Venu Pillarisetty**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, evaluating the effects of a somatostatin analogue on leak rates after pancreatic surgery.



Dara Horn, MD, 2018–2020

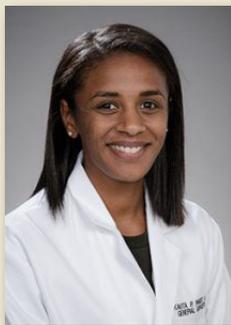
Dr. Horn is a research fellow in the **T32 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Trauma and Burns** under the mentorship of Dr. **Grant O'Keefe**, Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery. She will be focused on translational research, applying advances in nutrition and metabolomics to improve

the outcomes and care of critically ill and injured patients, and ultimately provide more personalized therapy options. During this time, Dr. Horn will also pursue a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology through the UW School of Public Health, with a focus on clinical research methods. After residency, she plans to pursue a fellowship in trauma and critical care.



Kevin Labadie, MD, 2018–2020

Dr. Labadie is working as a research fellow under the mentorship of Dr. **James Park**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, developing an antibody-directed theranostic platform for the treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). The antibody targets glypican-3 (GPC3), a tumor associated antigen serving as a unique molecular target in HCC. Their team has successfully conjugated different radiopharmaceuticals including Zirconium-89 for diagnostic immuno-positron emission tomographic imaging and Yttrium-90 for therapeutic application. In an orthotopic xenograft tumor mouse model, Dr. Labadie will further establish the efficacy of this theranostic antibody platform as a novel radiotherapeutic treatment approach to HCC. Dr. Labadie is also conducting research in the UW Tumor Immune Microenvironment (UW TIME) lab under the collaborative guidance of Drs. Venu Pillarisetty and **Teresa Kim**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery. Utilizing their tissue slice culture model, he plans to study the local immune microenvironment in pancreatic adenocarcinoma and soft tissue sarcoma with an emphasis on better understanding the role of tumor-associated macrophages (TAM) and their relationship to T-cells. He hopes to use the tissue slice culture model to study TAM-targeted therapeutics to augment and improve the efficacy of immunotherapy for pancreas and soft tissue cancers.



Kavita Pandit, MD, 2018–2020

Dr. Pandit is a trainee in the NIDDK-funded T32 fellowship in **Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes Research** at the **Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)** under the direction of Dr. **David Flum**, Professor, Division of General Surgery. Her research interests span multiple clinical areas, though she will focus on health disparities in surgical care across a variety of settings and populations. During this two year fellowship, Dr. Pandit will also be enrolled in the Master's in Public Health program at the University of Washington with a focus on health services. This advanced coursework will help her develop knowledge of research methodology and data analysis. She plans to eventually pursue a fellowship and career in colorectal surgery.