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Special thanks to the SMDP MedTech Outreach & Planning and SMDP MedTech Selection Committees

**Saturday, September 22nd:**

---	Hotel Check-in (SMDP Scholars)
6-7pm	<b>Reception:</b> Celebration of Mentoring & Diversity in Medical Technology
7-8pm	<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Todd Fonseca, Vice President, Clinical Research and Technical Communications, Medtronic <b>Keynote:</b> Josh Ghaim, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies
8-9pm	Networking & Refreshments

**Sunday, September 23rd: DePuy Synthes**

7:30-8am	Registration & Breakfast Bus Leaves Host Hotel at 6:30am
8-8:15am	Opening Remarks <b>Speaker:</b> Scott May, Executive Director, International Center for Professional Development (ICPD)
8:15-10:15am	SMDP Intro & Scholar/Mentor Q&As <b>Facilitator:</b> Elisabeth Freeman, President, International Center for Professional Development (ICPD)
10:15-11am	Break (Group Photos)
11am-noon	Personalized Mentoring <b>Facilitator:</b> Elisabeth Freeman
Noon-1pm	SMDP Scholar & Mentor Lunch
1-1:45pm	Careers in the MedTech Industry <b>Speaker:</b> Lisa Berlin, Vice President Human Resources for Research and Development Johnson & Johnson Global Medical Devices
1:45-3pm	“Career Choices” Discussion <b>Moderator:</b> Scott May <b>Panelist:</b> Ibraheem Badejo, Ph.D., Senior Director, New Ventures, Johnson & Johnson <b>Panelist:</b> Renee Barber, Senior Director Operations, Strategic Accounts, Medtronic <b>Panelist:</b> LaMont Bryant Ph.D., World Wide Vice President Regulatory Affairs, Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon <b>Panelist:</b> Joan Haab, Ph.D., Site Head, Gene Therapy Operations, MilliporeSigma <b>Panelist:</b> Javier Tapia, Director Process Development, Amgen
3-3:30pm	Break
3:30-4:15pm	Social Media Networking: <b>Speaker:</b> Shelina Ramnarine, Ph.D., Manager US Scientific & Medical Affairs Strategy, Johnson & Johnson
4:15-5pm	Getting Hired: Developing a High Impact Resume & Cover Letter <b>Speaker:</b> Colleen Albright, Senior Recruiting & Talent Consultant, MilliporeSigma
5-5:15pm	Personalized Mentoring & Wrap Up
5:30pm	Bus Departs to informal Dinner for all SMDP Scholars & Mentors

**Monday, September 24th: Pennovation**

7:30-8:15am	Bus Leaves Host Hotel at 7am Scholars & Mentors Breakfast Discussion: Career Goals & Action Items Mentor Debrief (SMDP Mentors 7:45-8am)
8:15-8:30am	Welcome by Kate Merton, Ph.D., JLABS
8:30-9am	Mentoring Portal Orientation <b>Speaker:</b> Dustielyn Savage, Programs Manager, International Center for Professional Development
9-9:45am	Getting Hired: Job Search Tools and How to Pursue Job Opportunities (Tips from Human Resource Insiders)
9:45-10:15am	Career Networking at Industry Events: An Introduction to <i>The MedTech Conference</i> <b>Facilitator:</b> Roberto Monserrate, Director Government Affairs, Amgen
10:15-10:30am	Break
10:30-11:15am	Be the Most Memorable Person in the Room: Your Non-Verbal Advantage <b>Speaker:</b> Todd Fonseca, VP, Medtronic
11:15-11:30am	Wrap Up & Evaluation
11:30am-2pm	Bus departs for Lunch and Site Visit at EMD Performance Materials (Scholars & MilliporeSigma Mentors)
Afternoon	<i>The MedTech Conference</i> Registration Bus Departs from MilliporeSigma at 2pm <i>The MedTech Conference</i> Sessions
5:30-7pm	<i>The MedTech Conference</i> Welcome Reception

**Tuesday, September 25th: Convention Center**

7:30-9am	<i>The MedTech Conference:</i> Plenary Breakfast (Grand Ballroom)
9:15-12:30pm	<i>The MedTech Conference</i> Panels, Exhibits & Company Presentations
12:30-2pm	<i>The MedTech Conference:</i> Plenary Lunch (Grand Ballroom)
2:15-5:15pm	<i>The MedTech Conference</i> Panels, Exhibits & Company Presentations
4pm	<i>The MedTech Conference:</i> Afternoon Plenary with SMDP Scholar Recognition ( <b>Scholars &amp; Mentors Reserved Seating in front VIP section</b> , Grand Ballroom)
5-7pm	<i>The MedTech Conference:</i> Chairmen’s Networking Reception (Hall A)
7-10pm	<i>The MedTech Conference</i> Private Receptions/Dinners (invitation only)
9:30-11pm	AdvaMed MedTech After Party

**Wednesday, September 26th: Convention Center**

	Hotel Check-out
7:30-9am	<i>The MedTech Conference:</i> Networking Breakfast (PCC - 103BC)
9-12:15pm	<i>The MedTech Conference</i> Panels, Exhibits & Company Presentations
12:30pm-2pm	<i>The MedTech Conference:</i> Plenary Luncheon (Grand Ballroom)
2:15pm-4pm	Closing Plenary
Evening	SMDP MedTech Scholars Depart



SMDP MedTech Training Session, Sept 22-26, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA

**Website:** [www.icpdprograms.org](http://www.icpdprograms.org)



# 2018 Scientist Mentoring & Diversity Program for medical technology (SMDP MedTech)

[www.icpdprograms.org](http://www.icpdprograms.org)

## Training Session

September 22-26, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA

about the program **who attends:** the one-year career mentoring program pairs ethnically diverse post-baccalaureate students, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers with industry mentors who work at medical technology and consumer healthcare companies.

With their mentors, SMDP MedTech Scholars attend a 5-day training session to learn about career opportunities in industry and receive career coaching. SMDP Scholars and Mentors also attend The MedTech Conference.

**how to dress, what to bring:** business attire with comfortable shoes. Scholars, bring 100 business cards and 10 copies of your resume. Mentors will need business cards too.

### where to go:

#### Host Hotel

**Mentors** you will arrange your own accommodation

**Scholars** a shared room reservation has already been made for you at this location:

[Le Meridien, 1421 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19102](#)

#### “Celebration of Mentoring & Diversity” reception

(Saturday, Sept 22 at 6pm)

**Scholars** and **Mentors** you’re already on the guest list

[Convene at City View, 30 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1410, Philadelphia, PA 19103](#)

#### SMDP training session day 1

the bus leaves the host hotel at 6:30am

**Scholars** you will be introduced to your

**Mentors** at the training session

[Johnson & Johnson DePuy Synthes, 1302 Wrights Lane, West Chester, PA 19380](#)

#### SMDP training session day 2

the bus leaves the host hotel at 7am

[Pennovation, 3401 Grays Ferry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19146](#)

#### Informal dinner

**Scholars** and **Mentors** you’re already on the guest list, we leave De Puy Synthes at 5:30pm

[Ladder 15, 1528 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)

#### MilliporeSigma site tour

The bus leaves from the SMDP training session at 11:30am

[EMD Performance Materials, 1200 Intrepid Avenue, Suite 300 Philadelphia, PA 19112](#)

#### The MedTech Conference

registration information will be provided during the SMDP training session.

[Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107](#)

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# 2018 SMDP MedTech Scholars



## LaTayia Aaron, Meharry Medical College

LaTayia Aaron-Brooks received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Clark Atlanta University (CAU). During her sophomore year she was selected to be a Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) scholar and later became a Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Scholar. During her time at CAU, she worked in a lab that focused on understanding the localization of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) in various prostate cancer cell lines. She also participated in summer research internships during her sophomore and junior year at the University of Nebraska Medical center and Boston University Medical Center, respectively. LaTayia graduated Summa Cum Laude and was a part of the top ten ranking students in her graduating class of approximately five hundred students.

After graduating from CAU, she decided to obtain a PhD at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN in Biomedical Sciences, with an emphasis in biochemistry and cancer biology. Her current project focuses on the effects of diabetes and obesity on benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Through this research she aims to understand the role(s) that these co-morbidities play in the causation and/or progression of BPH. LaTayia is projected to graduate in May 2019 with her doctoral degree. She has presented her research at several local and national conferences. In her spare time, LaTayia enjoys traveling and mentoring high school and early college students during their transition to college.



## Naomi Berhane, Harvard

Naomi Berhane was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA and is a 3rd year undergraduate at Harvard University. She studies Biomedical Engineering on the Mechanical Engineering track, with a minor in African Studies. Outside of school and work she loves to make music and has been playing the violin, guitar, piano, and singing for most of her life. Her interest in biomedical engineering began in high school after she spent a summer conducting medical research at USC. Over the next few years she spent time in several other engineering labs further discovering her passions within biomedical engineering. Naomi's last summer in high school she worked at a Medical and Electrical Engineering lab at Caltech with filamentary extrusion 3D printers and learned Computer Aided Design software. For two semesters at Harvard she worked in a Biomedical Engineering lab on two independent projects: 3D printable surgical instruments and an antimicrobial resin for stereolithography 3D printable implants. Last summer Naomi worked with the Stevens Group at Imperial College London in their Materials Engineering group. Her project focused on electromagnetic field and ultrasound stimulation of stem cells.

To expand her experience within biomedical engineering and gain more exposure in the medical device industry, Naomi spent this past summer at Edwards Lifesciences. Here she worked as a Quality Assurance Engineer within the Pilot Operations group of Transcatheter Mitral Valve Replacement. She conducted the majority of the test method validations for the Evoque Mitral Valve components and designed a new cleaning fixture to incorporate into the manufacturing process for the valve frames. As an engineer she hopes to design novel medical devices and work with global health related issues



## Lyanne Casillas, University of Puerto Rico Humacao

Lyanne Marie Casillas Santiago attended the University of Puerto Rico (Mayagüez Campus), where she recently graduated with a B. S. in Industrial Microbiology. During her summers she participated in several research projects at the University of Puerto Rico (Humacao Campus), thanks to which she was able to have a publication in the *Geomicrobial Journal*, three abstracts accepted in the ASM (American Society of Microbiology) convention and one in the SWI (Small World Initiative) convention. One of these projects was with Tiny Earth (then known as Small World Initiative), which focuses on finding new antibiotics for superbugs, creating a database for said new organisms, and in interesting students in STEM careers. She did an internship at the Mayagüez Medical Center. She has always been interested in the medical field and during her college years, the course that most interested her was Clinical Microbiology, which is why she hopes to pursue a PhD in it or in a related field.



## Kevin Castro, San Jose State University

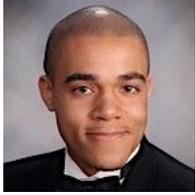
Kevin Castro is a recent graduate from San Jose State University's packaging engineering program. He was born in Lima, Peru and moved to California with my family when I was six years old. His hobbies include playing soccer, going to the gym, working on his car, and playing the guitar.

Through his four years as a packaging engineering student at San Jose State, Kevin was able to learn about the different fields that packaging engineers can pursue. He learned a lot about food packaging and packaging design but found himself to be more interested in medical device packaging. Kevin hopes to gain valuable experience, make connections, and prepare himself for a career in this industry.



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### Phillip Dorsey, Johns Hopkins University

Phillip Dorsey is currently a 4th year PhD candidate in chemical and biomolecular engineering in the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. His research combines synthetic biology, soft matter physics, and DNA nanotechnology to develop stimuli responsive biomaterials capable of mimicking the behaviors of living biological tissues to sense biomolecular inputs spatially, repair structural damage, and identify sets of molecular patterns.

Phil graduated from Princeton University in 2014 with a bachelors degree in chemical and biological engineering. He currently supervises two thesis track master's students on subprojects related to his thesis work and is a member of NOBCCChE (National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers) and NSBE. Phil enjoys attending concerts (especially for jazz and R&B) and playing basketball.



### Jessica Falcon, Temple University

Jessica is a highly-motivated scientist-engineer whose diverse skills and interests have led her to both research/academic science and industry pursuits. She graduated from Drexel University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and received her master's degree in bioengineering from Temple University in 2014. Jessica is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in bioengineering at Temple and anticipates graduating by Fall 2019. Jessica aspires to work in research & development and commercialization. In addition to her professional and academic undertakings, community outreach is of utmost importance to Jessica. Since

2012, she has been a volunteer with iPRAXIS, a nonprofit organization focused on exposing low-income students to STEM education. She received their Mentor of the Year Award in 2014.

Jessica's long-term career goal is to work for a medical technology company. She has research experience in many fields that include orthopedics, immunology, spectroscopy and microfluidics, but her primary expertise is in cartilage tissue engineering. Her thesis objective is to develop tissue engineered cartilage using stem cells to repair osteoarthritic cartilage. Throughout her PhD, Jessica has learned the important skills of critical thinking and troubleshooting, which have helped her become a fast and effective learner. Jessica received her Six Sigma Green Belt certification in 2015 which taught her the necessary skills for datadriven improvement. In addition, she is fondly known throughout her research laboratory as "the most organized member". Outside of the lab, Jessica has gained experience in regulatory affairs and data analytics. Jessica enjoys traveling, dancing, eating, and playing golf.



### Tokunbo "TJ" Falohun, Texas A&M University

As an aspiring innovator in the realm of medical technology, TJ's (Tokunbo) career mission is to play an influential role in bringing affordable, life-saving medical devices to those in need. His journey thus far has consisted of a mix of scholarly training and industry experience. Before enrolling in the Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering Program at Texas A&M University, he was a Junior Biomedical Engineer at Meridian Medical Technologies, a Pfizer company, where he worked on the Research and Design of auto injectors, such as the EpiPen. He returned to academia to develop a more advanced understanding of biomedical engineering.

For his graduate research, TJ develops miniature implantable biosensors for early detection and management of chronic diseases.

Outside of school and work, TJ enjoys audiobooks, photography, and traveling. With the career guidance and professional development provided by SMDP MedTech, he hopes to expand his professional network to be better equipped for an exhilarating career in medtech.



### Lauryn Flynn, University of Illinois at Chicago

Lauryn Flynn is a senior at the University of Illinois - Chicago (UIC) where she is studying bioengineering with a concentration in cell & tissue engineering. Lauryn is a member of a number of professional and student organizations including the UIC chapters of NSBE and SWE.

Lauryn has an immense passion for research which is why she plans to enter a doctoral program in either materials or biomedical engineering upon graduation. Currently, she is working in a research group performing computational simulations of self-assembled biological nano-systems. Outside of academia, Lauryn enjoys reading and volunteering.



### Leneshia "LeLe" Haynes, Creighton University School of Dentistry

Leneshia Haynes, a fourth-year dental student at Creighton University's School of Dentistry, is the former president of Creighton's Student National Dental Association (SNDA). She will graduate in 2019. This past year, she was also chosen to be the recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership Award. In her free time, she mobilizes her city by organizing activities and events such as fitness boot camps, community outreach programs, and fundraisers. Leneshia hopes to change the face of dentistry by incorporating education on healthy living, prevention, and awareness in the oral health care of underserved communities. Her passion for dentistry and its ability to transform patients' lives motivates her daily.





### **Ralph Hazelwood, PhD, Vanderbilt University**

Ralph J. Hazlewood II, PhD, is a third-year postdoctoral research fellow at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Born on the US Virgin Islands, he attended the University of the Virgin Islands receiving his bachelor's degree in Biology where he studied the genetic diversity of a rare plant species indigenous to the Virgin Islands. He later joined the McDonnell Genome Institute at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis for a 1 year-fellowship in human genetics. Ralph obtained his PhD in Genetics from the University of Iowa in 2015 studying the molecular genetics of optic nerve diseases similar to glaucoma, specifically cavitory optic disc anomaly (CODA). During his doctoral training, he identified the first CODA gene and its mechanism of action that leads to a robust increase in gene expression, with broad implications to the treatment of glaucoma. His current work focuses on repurposing existing FDA-approved medications for new glaucoma treatments. Ralph's ultimate career goal is to translate his diverse skills and experiences to accelerate drug discovery and diagnostics via bringing new therapies/treatments to market that can lead to improved healthcare and quality of life for those afflicted with debilitating conditions.

In his spare time, Ralph has sought out opportunities both formally and informally to help foster diversity in STEM fields. He has mentored undergraduate and junior graduate students, judged posters and abstracts for regional and national conferences and held leadership positions in several organizations, most recently as Senior-Co Chair of the Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Association.



### **Namir Huertas, Universidad del Turabo**

Namir A. Huertas was born in Hartford, Connecticut and raised in Patillas, Puerto Rico. She received her Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences at the Universidad de Puerto Rico at Cayey (UPRC) in 2013. After graduation, she spent a summer as a volunteer research assistant in the School of Public Health in Universidad de Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras. In 2015, Namir began she masters in Environmental Science at Universidad del Turabo in Gurabo, Puerto Rico. During her masters she was involved in multidisciplinary research, including electrochemistry and environmental management. Namir completed her master's degree in June 2018 with a manuscript that is in the review process for publication. Between 2016 and 2018 she worked as a general biology laboratory lecturer at Universidad del Turabo. Her most recent work was with Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she worked in the photovoltaics and material science group.



### **Madison Jackson, UC Berkeley**

Madison Jackson is a recent graduate from the joint UCSF and UC Berkeley Master of Translational Medicine program. Prior to her graduate studies, she received her Bachelors of Science from the University of Miami, Florida where she majored in Marine Science, Microbiology and Immunology with a minor in Chemistry. Madison aims to combine her scientific and translational knowledge to pursue a career in drug development.

In addition to her career interest, Madison is a part of a scuba dive group that searches for African slave shipwrecks as well as a volunteer group that teaches an alternative form of physical therapy to children with special needs.



### **Alexandria James, North Carolina A&T State University**

Alexandria James she studied bioengineering as an undergraduate student, and is now pursuing a graduate degree in Project Management at the University of Limerick in Ireland. Her overall goal is to become both a rehabilitation engineer and project manager, and work with clients in need of assistive devices. In her free time, Alex loves to travel, hike, and read novels. She recently completed an internship with The Department of Veterans Affairs, working as a systems redesign and performance management intern.



### **Kathy Lugo, University of Puerto Rico Medical Science Campus**

Katherine Lugo Nevarez holds an inter disciplinary science bachelor's degree. During her undergraduate degree at the University of Puerto Rico Rio-Piedras Campus, Ms. Lugo worked at the Material Characterization Center, servicing the Pharmaceutical Industry in the preparation of samples for analysis with the IR and the SEM, among other instruments. Followed by three years at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) performing research on adulterated products.

Kathy is currently working towards her master's degree in Industrial Pharmacy at the University of Puerto Rico. The degree program capacitates the students in advanced training in the pharmaceutical sciences as it concerns the development and manufacturing of health care products. She currently also assists as a T.A, in the compounding laboratories working on the development of innovative biorelevant dissolution medium. Kathy is also engaged in other extracurricular activities such as the contact sport of Judo; Olympic kayaking; paint-ball; drawing; painting and music. She is a certified diver and has a coast guard boating license.





### **Ekaette “Philo” Mbong, PhD, University of California San Diego**

Ekaette “Philo” Mbong completed her Ph.D. in Virology at the University of Alabama and her Postdoctoral training in Neuroendocrinology at the University of California, San Diego. Her passion to improve the policies governing STEM led her to apply and be awarded the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. The fellowship afforded her the unique opportunity to work at the National Science Foundation on Education Policy and the National Institutes of Health on Science Policy and Legislative Affairs. Specifically, she helped craft policies which aimed to diversify the

Engineering workforce and communicated scientific advancements to the U.S. Congress.

Ekaette recently started working as a Scientific/Medical Writer and Copy Editor (contract) at Ionis Pharmaceuticals in San Diego, California. She hopes to find a career in industry that is challenging, rewarding, client-facing, and utilizes her broad research and science communications background. Currently, she has her eye on Medical Affairs but is excited to learn of other areas in industry that would be fulfilling.



### **Tsedey Mekbib, Morehouse School of Medicine**

Tsedey Fantahun Mekbib is a PhD/MSCR dual degree candidate at Morehouse School of Medicine. She obtained her B.S degree in Biology from the University of West Georgia with distinction and joined MSM in 2014. As part of her PhD studies, she focuses on the role of ubiquitin ligases in the regulation of the circadian clock. Tsedey received awards for her outstanding academic performance in Genetics, Human Biology and Biostatistics among others. She has had the opportunity to present her work at different national and international conferences. Tsedey is passionate about serving the underserved parts of the world and helping

in bridging the healthcare gap that exists in places like her home country of Ethiopia.



### **Valeria Montalvo, Medical University of South Carolina**

Valeria C. Montalvo-Calero earned a bachelors degree in Industrial Microbiology at the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez. One of her first research experiences as an undergraduate was as a volunteer intern at the New York Blood Center Parasitology Laboratory where she researched antibody responses against *Onchocerca volvulus* in children from Ghana. After this experience, she started working in a Molecular Virology Tissue Engineering Laboratory (MVTEL). At MVTEL, her project consisted of measuring cytocompatibility of HeLa cells of multiple substrates to determine which material will be more effective for cell survival. This research project

was presented at the 2017 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students at Tampa, Florida. In addition, Valeria also participated in Amgen BioTalents, which exposed her to the biopharmaceuticals manufacturing logistic. Also, Valeria was selected to be part of University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez student representative team to participate Hispanic Engineering Award Annual Conference (HENAAC) at Anaheim California.

Valeria was also selected as Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program scholar at the Medical University of South Carolina. During her post-baccalaureate year, Valeria worked in an Immunobiology Transplant Laboratory. Her research project encompassed studying bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome after lung transplantation. In addition, she also volunteered as an educator at the Charleston STEM Festival and as a medical translator for the MUSC Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Her professional career interests are in the disciplines of bioengineering, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, and immunology. In addition, her hobbies are cycling, soccer, photography, surfing, traveling, road trips and gardening. Additionally, potential hobbies are bicycle mechanic and stock investment. During her undergrad studies, Valeria was co-captain of the soccer varsity team and participated in the Puerto Rico national soccer team.



### **Semir Ocbamicael, San Diego State University**

Semir attended San Diego State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He began his interest in engineering during high school, which led him to choose to be a Mechanical Engineer, but his interest later changed towards being a biomedical engineering when he attended a lecture about artificial organs and prosthetics. When his interest grew in the sciences, he wanted to learn how to connect his engineering degree into the medical field. Semir was involved in multiple organizations like LSAMP, the MESA engineering program, and the National Society of Black Engineers, which helped him connect

with students, professionals, and professors. With the MESA program, he started his research program in the Center of Sensory Motor Neural Engineering program. There, he worked with a professor in robotics and a graduate student whose thesis was on designing a mechanical hand that would be used as a prosthetic.

Semir was also much involved with NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) and also was an executive officer for them. There, he networked with many professionals working in engineering companies. He also started joining biotech organizations to get exposure to the field of bioengineering and Biotechnology. After graduating his undergraduate, Semir began working at several jobs including being a private tutor. Few months later he began working at Dexcom. He worked as a machinist at Dexcom for several months where he learned about the industry and what opportunities there were. He then left Dexcom and currently is working at Hologic where he is an Internal Service Engineer. Semir aspires to be part of the next innovative technology in the medical field.





## Joed Ortiz, Universidad del Turabo

Joed E. Ortiz Santiago is currently a PhD student in Environmental Science with a focus in chemical analysis from Universidad del Turabo in Gurabo, Puerto Rico. In 2013, he completed his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Afterwards, he continued his graduate studies in Environmental Science at Universidad del Turabo. In his second year, he started developing a synthesis for graphene oxide quantum dots, nanomaterials that are biocompatible with mammal cells and can be used as biomarkers for cancerous cells and drug delivery.

During this time, he applied for the 2017-18 Puerto Rico IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (PR-INBRE) Graduated Research Associates Awards, earning this fellowship for the proposal entitled biocompatibility studies of graphene oxide quantum dots in neurons. Joed has participated for two consecutive years, since 2017, in a summer internship that took place at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This opportunity allowed him to publish his first research article called: "Copper Sensing in Alkaline Electrolyte using Anodic Stripping Voltammetry by Means of a Lead Mediator". Joed has clear goals and he tirelessly works towards them.



## Christina Pedro, Cornell University

Christina Pedro is a dual major MBA/MD student. Before attending medical school, she worked as a clinical research coordinator at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, managing Phase II/III oncology trials from the Mayo Clinic in over 10 oncology clinics in Hawaii. In the past, she has also taught biology and chemistry to 10th and 11th grade high school students before completing graduate work at Cornell University.

Passionate about women's health, she has had the honor as serving as a Harvard Catalyst Visiting Research Intern at Harvard Medical School, focusing on bone development in amenorrheic female athletes. She has also conducted ovarian cancer research with a gynecologist oncologist, focusing on BRCA ½ variants of the ethnically diverse Hawaii population.

Her mantra has always been seeking ways to provide effective and efficient healthcare. In 2018, she completed her MBA at Cornell SC Johnson School of Management and her long-term goal is to make impactful change in women's health specifically in healthcare technology and medical devices. Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, she enjoys baking, learning about different cultures, and enjoys soaking up the sun and surfing.

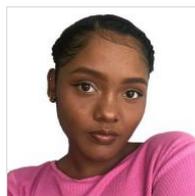


## Nilka Rivera, Universidad del Turabo

Nilka M. Rivera-Serrano received her Bachelor's degree in Natural Science from Pontifical Catholic University at Ponce (PUCPR) in 2015. During her undergraduate studies, she spent two years researching the biology and chemistry field. In 2014, she served as secretary of the first Association of Microbiology at PUCPR. In 2015 she was accepted as a graduate student in the School of Natural Science and Technology at the Turabo University in Puerto Rico. In August 2016, she was awarded the Puerto Rico IDeA Network Biomedical Research Excellence (PRINBRE) Fellowship to conduct her research, mainly directed toward to the preparation of the carbon fiber microelectrode to the detection of neurotransmitters using Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy.

In her first year of research, Nilka obtained her first publication entitled Static and Dynamic Measurement of Dopamine Adsorption in Carbon Fiber Microelectrodes Using Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy accepted in Analytical Chemistry Journal. In August 2017, she became a Teaching Assistant in the Natural Science and Technology department teaching courses in the general Biology laboratory. She also served as Vice President of the first association of graduate student of the Turabo University.

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## Samarys Rivera, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao

Samarys Rivera Navedo is currently completing her last semester, in which she is majoring in General Biology at the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao (UPRH). Ever since taking her first General Biology class she became entirely interested in microorganisms. As a part of her search for knowledge in that field, in Molecular Biology class she participated in a project called Tiny Earth at UPRH formerly known as, Small World.

In her free time, Samarys she loves to cook and try new vegan foods. She also does volunteer work in churches, environmental organizations and even retirement homes.



## Angelica Rodriguez, University of Wisconsin Madison

Angélica de L. Rodríguez López is a Materials Science graduate student and is also pursuing a PhD minor in Chemical and Biological Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has worked on a variety of cutting-edge applied scientific projects including materials science, medical microbiology, chemistry and chemical engineering. Specifically, she has designed thin-film antimicrobial coatings on vascular and urinary catheters, and orthopedic implants prototypes (e.g. medical grade titanium substrates) surfaces for preventing microbial infections. These antimicrobial coatings will serve as prototypes for alternative therapeutic strategies

that can be employed in the treatment of medical devices-related infections and will hopefully result in the improvement of patients' health outcomes.

In another project Angélica has investigated synergisms between small-molecules and  $\beta$ -amino acid containing antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) for the development of alternative antimicrobials, less prone to microbial resistance mechanisms and that will be

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effective at preventing resistant microbial communities known as biofilms. Finally, she has developed a polymicrobial *in vitro* assay, for investigating potential antimicrobials activity, as well as, testing the antimicrobial efficiency of the thin-film antimicrobial coatings. At UW Madison, Angélica is currently a Graduate Research Engineering Scholar (GERS) and participate actively within this graduate student community promoting student STEM educational outreach activities. Additionally, she has also participated, since 2016, at the University of Wisconsin Rural Summer Science Camp introducing high school students into the academic research of stem-cell engineering for modeling cardiovascular diseases.



### **Larry Scott, Jr., Baylor College of Medicine**

Larry Scott Jr. is a fourth-year doctoral candidate currently training in the Molecular Physiology and Biophysics (MPB) Department at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). His ongoing research is focused on cardiovascular arrhythmias investigating the association between obesity and inflammation triggered atrial fibrillation (AF) development. The overall goal of this research is to characterize the mechanism of AF development due to the interaction of these risk factors and potentially confirm accurate targets for therapy to attenuate the arrhythmia and associated downstream effects (i.e. stroke and death).

While attending Morehouse College and Georgia Tech for his undergraduate studies, Larry respectively earned a dual-degree in Applied Physics and Biomedical Engineering to complement his interests in the developing field of medical technology. Prior to pursuing graduate school, Larry spent two years in industry working as a research scientist for Aderans Research Institute, a small company that used innovative regenerative cell-based therapies to treat male-pattern hair loss. Upon completing his graduate studies, Larry would like to return to industry to establish a career applying his accrued knowledge and experiences to make advancements in the biomedical field that can positively impact the health and longevity of human society. During his leisure time, Larry enjoys exploring whatever city he's in, to experience different cultures, sites, activities, and especially food.



### **Abel Tekle, San Jose State University**

Abel Tekle is a senior attending San Jose State University. He is currently pursuing a B.S. in Packaging and expects to graduate in the Spring of 2019. While at San Jose State, Abel has been working at various retail stores where he has been able to improve his soft skills. When able, he volunteers at Martha's Kitchen, a local soup kitchen in which, Abel aids in feeding those in need of a meal. In his free time, he enjoys the sport of basketball and is an avid film lover.



### **Jaylon Tellis, Tulane University**

Jaylon is devoted to utilizing science, engineering, and design to solve problems and create new solutions at the intersections of medicine, technology, and humanity. As an undergraduate in biomedical engineering at Tulane University, he pursued research in bone, joint and motion analysis to prevent wear and tear on the joints of the body. He is inspired to delve deeper into the mechanics of human movement using technology and design of devices to aid movement and extend a patient's ability.

His passion for human movement and medical devices began with my love of hip-hop dancing and aerodynamic gear. Looking ahead, I am thrilled to further my knowledge, experiences, and skills in a career of medical device design.



### **Anamaris Torres, San Juan Bautista Medical School**

Anamaris Torres-Sánchez completed a bachelors degree in General Natural Sciences from University of Puerto Rico in Cayey. Currently on her senior year in the Nursing Program at the San Juan Bautista Medical School in Puerto Rico, Anamaris works as a Research Assistant for two studies; focusing on epidemiological anxiety and stress behaviours after Hurricane María, and Pre-Clinical research in drug development for lung cancer. Her long term interest is in better understanding and improving the health of underserved communities.



### **Rafa Veraza, University of Texas Health Center San Antonio**

Rafael J Veraza, originally from Mexico City, spent most of his early career working with non-profit organizations and international organizations such as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, Rotary International, and Caritas Internationalis. He is a graduate from the Honors College at the University of Texas at San Antonio with a degree in Biology where he focused on Neurobiology studies. He was the recipient of a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to represent Rotary International in Botswana and Southern Africa after his undergraduate degree. While in Botswana he worked with WHO, and Baylor College of

Medicine on several HIV public health projects. After completing a year in Botswana he was the recipient of an NIH Fogarty Fellowship to study a Masters in Public Health at Emory University. After completing his public health studies, his passion for serving others led him to participate as a consultant for UNICEF and WHO to work with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in Angola.

Rafael is a recent graduate from the Joint PhD in Translational Science from the University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and The University of Texas at San Antonio. His Ph.D. dissertation work focused on translating pre-clinical research studies in the area of stroke and traumatic brain injury. Currently, he works on commercialization of medical devices in the field of organ and tissue preservation.



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## Michelle Visbal, Purdue University

Michelle A. Visbal Onufrak was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where she completed bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. In 2009 she was awarded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Graduate Scholarship and was also an NIH RISE-UPRM scholar, a program which seeks to support underrepresented minorities in pursuing graduate careers in the biomedical sciences. After completing her masters, she joined Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation in Upstate New York, a company which provides support to the research and development of advanced power systems for the United States Nuclear Navy fleet. She is also a licensed Electrical Engineer of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Since Fall 2013, she has been pursuing her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering (BME) under the mentorship of Dr. Young L. Kim at Purdue University. This coming winter she plans to complete her dissertation in developing a hyperspectral imaging smartphone application for point-of-care settings in oncology and global health. She just returned from a 3-month stay in Kenya where she completed the first phase of a clinical study for this project between Purdue, Vanderbilt University and Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. She has authored 6 peer-reviewed scientific publications, some a product of research collaborations with international universities and institutions, such as ETH Zurich in Switzerland and the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences of Korea. At Purdue, she has also served as Instructor for Bioinstrumentation and Introduction to MATLAB courses, as Graduate Assistant for the Purdue Minority Engineering Program, and is recognized as an AGEP Scholar.



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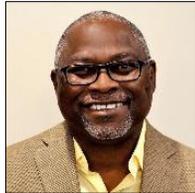
# 2018 SMDP MedTech Mentors



## Colleen Albright, Merck KGaA

Colleen Albright is a Leader in Merck KGaA's Global Talent Management Center of Excellence. In her role, Colleen focuses on Executive level talent strategies and positions for Millipore Sigma on a global basis. She is also responsible for global recruiting projects that include, diversity initiatives, early in career, technology and social media and talent branding.

Prior to joining Merck KGaA, Colleen held various positions for 22 years in Talent Acquisition. Most recently, she was a Manager of Sourcing at Johnson & Johnson where she was responsible for managing a team developing external talent strategies for R&D and Engineering across the enterprise. Colleen holds a BS in Management Science from Kean University.



## Ibraheem Badejo, PhD, Senior Director-New Ventures (Medical Devices) Johnson & Johnson Innovation Center

Ibraheem Badejo is a Medical Device New Venture Leader at J & J Innovation, Boston, MA. Ibraheem leverages his expertise in smart materials and biomaterials to support the medical device sector of Johnson & Johnson with focus on early stage investments. From 2010 to 2013, Ibraheem was a Research Fellow at Global Surgery Group of Johnson & Johnson, where he was responsible for external and front-end innovations and intellectual property for Ethicon Biosurgery. From 2006 to 2010, he was the Director of Applied Research & New Technology Assessment of novel biomaterials. Prior to that, he was the Chief Scientist of Closure Medical Corp (acquired by Johnson & Johnson in 2005). Ibraheem has held various positions at Bayer, North Carolina State University, and the College of Charleston. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Drexel University.

Ibraheem received his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Toledo, where he was the Robert Whiteford Memorial Scholar for Outstanding Graduate Research and a Petroleum Research Fund Fellow. He is also the recipient of 24 US patents, he's also well published in many peer review journals. Ibraheem is very passionate about mentoring and volunteering – meeting the needs of less fortunate across the globe. He serves on the board of couple of non-profit organizations.



## Renee Barber, Senior Director Operations for Strategic accounts, Medtronic

Renee is the Sr. Director of Operations for Strategic accounts at Medtronic. She is responsible for establishing and implementing operational rigor to grow Pan Medtronic business to \$2B with our most critical customers. She joined Medtronic in 2016 leading Americas Operations support for the Integrated Health Solutions business, responsible for leading and developing strategic business processes, staff development, growth strategies, and supporting ongoing business operations in the US, Canada, and Latin America.

Renee has more than 22 years of Operations and Supply Chain management experience with an emphasis in Lean/Six sigma, sourcing, capital planning and new business development. She has spent the last 14 years in the healthcare industry driving lean practices across GE Healthcare, providing Capital planning and operational rigor to the quality, sourcing, and service asset management teams. Renee worked to build a new Radiology Optimization program, including customer segmenting, deal cycle, resource planning, and budget management, generating a \$1B revenue pipeline and \$250M in customer operational savings.

Renee is Greenbelt certified and black belt trained. She holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Marquette University and an MBA from UNC Chapel Hill. She has a passion for the development of young women in the field of engineering. She uses her work history and work platform to share with young women her journey and is a big advocate for young ladies seeking opportunities in the science and math disciplines.

She enjoys cooking, traveling to taste different food groups and then creating those dishes in her own kitchen. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family playing games, traveling and experiencing the world.



## Shubhayu Basu PhD, Director of R&D, Biosense Webster

Shubhayu is the Director of R&D at Biosense Webster. He is in charge of new product development of diagnostic catheters as well as the next generation generator platform for Biosense Webster. He also currently chairs the Patent Committee and has also led the CSS Educational Grants Committee till 2017. Shubhayu is also proud to co-lead the annual R&D portfolio process for Biosense Webster. Shubhayu moved to the US from India to pursue graduate studies.

Shubhayu has always shuttled between the States of Ohio and California in his professional life. After becoming a staunch Ohio State fan while gaining his PhD at the University, he moved to Stanford as a prestigious Biodesign fellow before joining Guidant Corporation and then Abbott Vascular. Ohio called him back again in 2008. He spent five years in an incubator at the Cleveland Clinic developing interventional cardiology and vascular surgery devices before joining Biosense Webster in 2013.



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He is the holder of 30 issued US patents, remains a staunch fan of the Buckeyes, and spends his spare time honing his photography skills and mentoring the STEM team of his two sons.



### **LaMont Bryant PhD, World Wide Vice President Regulatory Affairs, Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon**

P. LaMont Bryant is the Worldwide Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon, Inc. LaMont's primary responsibilities include supporting the advancement of the Ethicon, Inc. innovation portfolio and maintaining global market access by developing and executing effective regulatory strategies. LaMont serves on both the Ethicon, Inc. Leadership Team to advance the development of the business and on the Johnson & Johnson Medical Device Companies' Regulatory Affairs Leadership Team.

In his immediate past role, LaMont was the Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, Management Board member, for Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Consumer Inc. (McNeil Consumer Healthcare Division) where he has Regulatory Affairs responsibility for the company's over-the-counter drug portfolio. He previously had global regulatory responsibility for strategic development and portfolio expansion of biologics, medical devices and combination products in J&J's Ethicon Biosurgery Division. He also held the position of Product Director, Global Strategic Marketing where he was responsible for ideation and innovation for Advanced Energy surgical products. Prior to joining J&J, LaMont held several regional and global leadership positions in the Procter & Gamble Company's Regulatory Affairs, Product Development, and R&D organizations from 2000-2007.

LaMont has been recognized for his contributions to the sciences and global Public Health. Honors include induction in Delta Omega, the National Public Health Honor Society and the Marie W. Taubeneck Award. He currently sits on the Board of Directors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health and the Board of Directors at NCCU College of Arts & Sciences. In the community, he has served on boards and committees including Hospice of Greater Cincinnati, Fernside. He is a past National Philanthropy Day honoree and YMCA Black & Latino Adult Achiever. He is also a Life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

LaMont earned a BS & MS in Biology from North Carolina Central University and a PhD in environmental sciences and engineering from Carolina's School of Public Health.



### **Lindsay Chang, Director of Project Management and R&D Operations, DePuy Synthes Spine**

Lindsay Chang is the Director of Project Management and R&D Operations for DePuy Synthes Spine. She joined J&J in January of 2018. Previous to J&J, she worked as VP of Program Management at VOX Telehealth, a company focused on providing tools to improve patient outcomes by redefining the patient experience and recovery model. At VOX, she directed development and commercialization of cloud-based, database-driven online patient engagement programs.

Prior to this, Lindsay served as Associate Director of Development of Orthobiologics with Zimmer, where she spent 10 years on new product development and commercialization of cartilage and bone implants for regeneration of tissue. Lindsay earned her Biomedical Engineering degrees from Duke University (Bachelor's) and University of Texas at Austin (Master's). She also holds a Master of Science in Integrative Medicine and Health Sciences from Saybrook University. Lindsay is a certified Project Management Professional.



### **Martiza Chirivella, Senior Manager Drug Product Technical Transfers, Amgen**

Martiza Chirivella is a professional who has over 15 years of diverse experience and execution in the biotechnology industry and government. She currently works at Amgen Manufacturing Limited (AML) located in Puerto Rico. She is Senior Manager of AML Drug Product Technical Transfers to the site, responsible for the oversight of over 50 NPI projects to the site. She previously held different positions within Amgen in Process Development, responsible for the scientific and technical support to Drug Product manufacturing operations. Current president for Amgen Early Career Professional chapter at AML and member of Amgen FUEL potential.

Before joining Amgen, Maritza worked in a number of professional positions at Pfizer, Glaxo-SmithKline in Pennsylvania, and Centers for the Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention. Within those roles, she supported different roles in validation, manufacturing of solid dosage, and research and development. Maritza holds a bachelor's degree in science from Pennsylvania State University and master degree in biochemistry and cellular molecular biology from the University of Puerto Rico.



### **Raina Dauria, World Wide Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Cardiovascular & Specialty Solutions, Johnson & Johnson**

Raina Dauria is WW Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for the Cardiovascular & Specialty Solutions business within the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies. Raina leads a global organization of regulatory professionals dedicated to supporting the delivery of innovative, forward thinking regulatory strategies for medical devices to ultimately benefit patients worldwide.



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Prior to joining CSS in 2017, she spent 6 years leading the Biosurgery Platform within Ethicon where she led a diverse portfolio of devices, biologics and combination products. Prior to that, Raina worked for Advanced Technologies and Regenerative Therapeutics, LLC., part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, with experiences spanning from pre-approval regulatory submissions for device, biological and combination products, oversight of Clinical Research, Field Scientific Affairs and Quality Assurance.

Raina received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT and her Master of Science in Drug Regulatory Affairs and Health Policy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, MA. Raina has also obtained her Regulatory Affairs Certification, issued by the Regulatory Affairs Professionals' Society. She has been a member of the RAPS Board of Directors since 2015.



### **Ladan Fakhrzadeh, PhD, DABT, Manager, Baby Standards, Johnson & Johnson Consumer**

Ladan Fakhrzadeh holds a Ph.D. in Toxicology from Rutgers University and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is a Board-certified Toxicologist (Diplomat of American Board of Toxicology, DABT) and a trained EU Safety Assessor. Ladan is a Consumer Fellow with combined 16 years of experience in global ingredient and product safety, in academic and both clinical and non-clinical regulated global environments.

She joined J&J Consumer in 2007 as a Toxicologist and since then rotated across multiple functions and Need States (Oral Care, Wound Care, Baby and Beauty). Ladan developed and implemented Globally Harmonized Clinical Safety Standards and initiated the global Clinical Safety Data integration to drive centralized safety requests and one touch safety assessment and approvals. She designed a new clinical safety assessment Tool using Big Data, transforming and modernizing the operating model of formulation design. Ladan is passionate about the application of Big Data Science and Data Analytics to improve R&D practices from an empiric art to innovative science.



### **Tracy Flathmann, Senior Director of Laser Equipment Systems, Johnson & Johnson Vision Surgical**

Tracy is currently Senior Director of Laser Equipment Systems, Johnson & Johnson Vision Surgical based in Milpitas, CA. In the span of Tracy's over 20-year tenure with Johnson & Johnson, she has held positions in all three sectors of J&J (Pharma, Med Device, Consumer) and multiple functions, primarily R&D, Engineering, Supply Chain / Operations, and Quality/Process Excellence. Tracy is known for success in leading technical teams to bring live-saving innovation to market. Tracy holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a MBA. Tracy is a J&J certified Master Black Belt and a PMI certified PMP.

Tracy's husband also works at J&J. She has 2 children, a son, age 17 and a daughter, age 15.



### **Todd Fonseca, Vice President of Clinical Research, Medtronic**

Todd A Fonseca is a twenty-year medical device executive, published author, corporate speaker, frequent leadership podcast guest, and online columnist featured on The Science of People and Deloitte University Press. He is currently a Vice President of Clinical Research at Medtronic, is the principal trainer and speaker for The Leadership Lab and is a certified body language trainer.



### **Kristine Fuimaono, Business Unit Leader, Coherex and Device Development Leader, Biosense Webster**

Kristine Fuimaono graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Directly after college, she went to work for a small start-up medical device company named Webster Labs. There she held various positions in Manufacturing, Quality, R&D and project management. When Webster labs was eventually acquired by Cordis and then by Johnson & Johnson she was able to transition to work in Marketing, focusing on product development and global strategic marketing.

She had the pleasure to work her entire career in med devices being able to work on all types of products and projects from catheters to software to hardware platforms. She especially enjoys working with physicians to help make their ideas and needs into products. Currently she holds two roles at Biosense Webster, a Johnson & Johnson company. Her first job is as the Business Unit Leader for Coherex, a Left Atrial Appendage Closure company that JNJ acquired a few years ago. Additionally, she is the Device Development Leader for a major Biosense Webster R&D program called, QDot. She enjoys leading both projects since it allows her to utilize both her marketing and engineering background as well as interacting a lot with physicians and cross functional teams.





### **Kristie Gauntt, Global Head of Medical Device Regulatory Affairs Transformation Office, Johnson & Johnson**

Kristie Gauntt is the Global Head of the Medical Device Regulatory Affairs Transformation Office at Johnson & Johnson. She is a military veteran and brings over 18 years of leadership and technical experience to lead strategy development and drive execution of operational plans. In her current role, she works with the global regulatory affairs organization to design and implement new and effective ways to optimize regulatory pathways and deliver operational tools and systems to maximize market access for an over \$26 billion product portfolio. She has extensive domestic and global experience and is currently leading one of the largest, globally disperse teams within the research and development organization at J&J. She is known for her passion in innovation, people development and excellence in change leadership.



### **John Grimm, Corporate Vice President of US R&D, B. Braun Medical, Inc.**

Presently, John is the Corporate Vice President of U.S. Research and Development for B. Braun Medical, Inc. He has served in his present role for the last five years. However, John has been an employee of B. Braun since 1987. John earned his B.S. in Industrial Technology from Arizona State University (1985) and obtained a Master of Arts in Business Management and Leadership from Liberty University (2014). John’s responsibilities include oversight of new product development in the areas of innovative Pharmaceutical container platforms, IV solutions, pre-mixed drugs, Infusion pumps, Pharmacy compounders, IV Systems, Pharmacy admixture, Pain Control and Needle-free products. John served as a SMPD mentor in 2017/18.



### **Joan Haab, PhD, Site Director for Millipore-Sigma Viral Vector**

Joan Haab is currently the Site Director for the Millipore-Sigma Viral Vector contract manufacturing site where she leads an organization responsible for producing some of the most innovative therapies on the market today. Prior to taking this role in December of 2017, she spent more than a dozen years in the medical device industry, in a variety of Research & Development and Operations leadership positions. Her interests lie in marrying deep technical understanding with key business principals to help drive business success. Joan holds a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Oregon, and a Bachelors in Molecular & Cellular Biology from San Francisco State University.



### **Trisha Hutzul, Head Strategic Capabilities and WW Senior Director Global Health Economics and Market Access, Johnson & Johnson MD&D**

Trisha Hutzul currently functions as the Head of Strategic Capabilities in the WW Health Economics and Market Access Center of Excellence, at Johnson and Johnson Medical Devices. In this role, she is responsible for working across the Health Economics and Market Access COE and its partners to support the successful planning and implementation of meaningful evidence generation and dissemination activities. Trisha and her team also host US regional responsibilities, including reimbursement, payer relations, policy and strategic alliance development. In addition, she currently functions as the Process Management Officer for the Health Economics and Market Access COE.

Trisha joined Johnson and Johnson Medical Devices over 13 years ago and has held a series of diverse and progressive roles across both the regional and global organizations and has specialized. Trisha has held positions in both the Research and Development (R&D) and Commercial arms of J&J - supporting upstream product development, downstream launch excellence, and lifecycle management. Her career has included roles in Emerging Markets, Professional Surgical Training, Medical Affairs, Clinical Research, Market Access and Health Technology Assessment. Trisha is a Graduate of the University of Toronto and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Medical Institutes. Prior to joining the Johnson and Johnson Trisha worked for a series of European based pharmaceutical companies with focus on the therapeutic areas of immunology and metabolism supporting global research and local product uptake. Trisha has a passion for innovation, and recently completed the J&J Harvard Innovation Leadership Program. She is also and mentor and sponsor of cross sector talent development.



### **Erin Johnson, PhD, Vice President of R&D, DePuy Synthes Spine**

Erin has more than 27 years of experience in Orthopedics and Medical Device R&D. She has held numerous positions of increasing leadership in areas of front end research, development, and testing in product lines such as Hips, Trauma, and Biologics, with her current position being Vice President of R&D for DePuy Synthes Spine, a Johnson and Johnson company. Prior to this, during her appointment of VP of Trauma R&D at Zimmer, she also oversaw the Trauma Division Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Affairs departments. Erin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wichita State University, a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Arizona State University, an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and a Ph.D. in Bioengineering from the University of Notre Dame.





## **Rushi Potdar, MD, Director of R&D Strategy and Business Operations, Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices**

Rushi Potdar is Director of R&D Strategy and Business Operations at Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Medical Devices. In his current role, Rushi drives innovation strategy for J&J Medical Devices which includes its orthopedic, cardiovascular, surgical and other device businesses with sales totaling \$20 B. He provides leads bringing together portfolio insights, strategic imperatives and organizational priorities for the R&D group.

His previous roles included Chief of Staff for the Chairman of DePuy Synthes Companies, and roles in marketing and key accounts management. Rushi received his M.B.A. from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and is board certified in General Surgery from India. His area of clinical interest and expertise is surgical oncology.



## **John Pracyk, MD, PhD, Worldwide Integrated Leader Medical Affairs, Pre-Clinical & Clinical Research, DePuy Synthes**

Since joining J&J, John Pracyk has held multiple appointments of increasing authority. He began his career in 2016 as Franchise Medical Director responsible for the innovation pipeline for DePuy Synthes, Spine. In 2017 he ascended onto the Spine Platform Leadership Team as the Franchise Medical Leader. In 2018 his scope was further increased as he became the Worldwide Integrated Leader of Medical Affairs, Pre-Clinical and Clinical Research for DePuy Synthes, Spine.

John delivers deep clinical insights to accelerate meaningful innovation and drive value and safety for spine patients globally. He serves as a strategic medical partner with colleagues across Research and Development, Strategic Marketing, Medical Safety, Health Economics & Market Access, Quality, Regulatory Affairs, and Business Development. He also collaborates with Professional Education & Relations, Law, Health Care Compliance, and Risk Management. John provides expert medical and scientific input to strategic ideation as well as product development, including conceptual and hands-on evaluation, as well as pre-clinical and clinical research perspectives throughout the innovation cycle.

John is a board-certified Neurological Surgeon who obtained his BS, MD and PhD degrees from Duke University. He received his neurosurgical training at The George Washington University and was competitively awarded fellowships at Cambridge University, the National Institutes of Health, and the University of Iowa. Prior to joining DePuy Synthes, he maintained a clinical practice, developed multidisciplinary spine centers in the non-profit sector, and served as a strategic healthcare consultant. John is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. In 2015, he completed an Executive Master of Business Administration at The Haslam College of Business of The University of Tennessee.



## **Brandon Randall, Senior Director, R&D Strategy & Operations, DePuy Synthes R&D, Orthopedic division of Johnson & Johnson**

Brandon currently leads strategy development and operations for DePuy Synthes R&D, the Orthopedic division of Johnson & Johnson, and digital strategy development across J&J Medical Devices. Brandon has nearly 20 years of experience in the medical device industry and has held both engineering and marketing roles across a variety of disease state and surgical procedure areas including diabetes, heart disease, and orthopedics.

Prior to his current role, Brandon served as head of DePuy Synthes China R&D, based in Suzhou. While in China he led a team of 30+ engineers and marketers whose aim was to discover unmet clinical needs and insights in China and create meaningful innovation opportunities. In addition to driving an innovation agenda, the Suzhou R&D team was also responsible for developing a localized China specific portfolio across orthopedics. Prior to moving to China in 2014, Brandon served as R&D Director of MIS & Navigation in Spine based out of Raynham, MA.

Brandon joined Johnson & Johnson in 2012 as a part of the Synthes acquisition. Before joining J&J he held positions of increasing responsibility within Synthes. During his career at Synthes he participated in the launch of over a dozen clinically and commercially successful products ranging from cervical allograft spacers to pedicle screws. In 2010 Brandon led the Posterior Thoracolumbar team in the launch of the Matrix System, the largest investment and launch in the history of Synthes at its time.

Before joining the orthopedics industry Brandon worked in diagnostics at Minimed Inc (now a Medtronic company) and Burstein Technologies, a medical device startup based in Irvine, CA. Brandon received both his B.S in Biomedical Engineering and Global Executive MBA from the University of Southern California.



## **Liam Rowley, Vice President, Research & Development Knee, DePuy Orthopedics, UK**

Liam joined DePuy Orthopedics, UK in Feb 2002 as a Knee Bioengineer. He augmented his previous 16 years' experience as an Engineer and leader in the European Automotive Industry with an MSc in Life Science Engineering from Leeds University in the UK. Liam filled various roles of increasing responsibility in Knee Development including project management and people management.



In his 10 years in Leeds, Liam contributed significantly to many major Knee Development programs; Sigma high flexion knees, Sigma HP and ATTUNE. In 2011 Liam relocated with his family to the US to work in Warsaw, IN. With this change, Liam also moved to Hip Development and took over the Leadership and initiation of a major Hip Development Program as well as oversight of many other Hip Projects. The creation of a more independent Portfolio and Program Management Group in 2014 allowed Liam to broaden his influence further through the new role of Portfolio & Program Management Director for Joints, Sports and Power Tools. Working in a highly collaborative role, Liam built this new organization alongside his peers in Trauma and Spine to create a common model and process across the whole DePuy Synthes Franchise. For the last 3 years, Liam has led the DePuy Synthes World Wide Knee R&D team; leading a team of up to 80 professionals around the globe. He has direct responsibility for strategic direction and tactical execution of the Knee Portfolio. Achievement during his tenure in knees have included launches of the ATTUNE Revision, ATTUNE Cementless and the SOLO instrument system.



### **Deepak Sharma, PhD, Worldwide Director and Fellow Global Enabling Systems Group Engineered Solutions, J&J Consumer Companies**

Deepak joined Johnson and Johnson consumer Inc. in 2006 from Gillette, as part of Johnson and Johnson acquisition of oral care brand & technologies from Gillette/P&G. Deepak holds a BS, MS and PhD degree in Biophysical Chemistry. His PhD work was focused on studying (un)folding and structural organization mechanisms of globular and fibrous proteins using various spectroscopic techniques. Prior to joining industry, Deepak was Research Assistant Professor with Boston College, where he focused on developing understanding

of protein aggregation pathways that are implicated in various neurodegenerative diseases.

In 2004 he left academic research and joined Gillette Advanced Technology center, where he supported various initiatives for oral and skin care need states. In J&J, Deepak started with supporting oral care platform technologies group, and led the development and commercialization of first medical device for Listerine Franchise. Deepak played key role during successful remediation of warning letter related to medical devices by leading the Risk Management work stream and closely working with FDA and ASTM organization. He has led complex disruptive innovation alliance project for Oral care need state and has been instrumental in developing upstream innovation program for Compromised Skin need state. Since 2016, he has been leading the Global Enabling Systems group responsible for development and commercialization of medical devices for J&J Consumer Inc. Currently his team has been instrumental in launch of Neutrogena Light Therapy devices.

Deepak enjoys leading diverse technical teams and is passionate about global consumer needs, community outreach, mentoring and continuous learning.



### **Arthur Stephen, Director of Research & Development, Mitek Sports Medicine**

After graduating from Northeastern University in 2000 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, Arthur Stephan started his career in the automotive industry working for the Stoneridge Company. During his 5 year tenure, he progressed through the technical ladder, achieving the title of Principal Engineer. While at Stoneridge, he held a hybrid role where he was simultaneously the technical and project leader for the “customer actuator division”, responsible for developing customer actuated electro-mechanical switches. After 5 years of professional growth in the automotive industry, he took his talents to Boston Scientific where he was a technical lead for the industry’s first disposable colonoscope. In 2008, after leaving Boston Scientific, he entertained an offer to join Johnson and Johnson. He began his JnJ career as an individual contributor, launching products to treat Rotator Cuff Disease. He was progressively promoted until assuming his current position of Director of R&D, Mitek Sports Medicine. Arthur believes strongly in JnJ’s Credo and also believes that, to be truly successful in life, one needs to demonstrate three key traits; integrity, transparency and grit.



### **Javier O. Tapia, Director Drug Product Technology, Amgen**

Javier is the Director within Drug Product Technology-Innovations at Amgen Manufacturing Limited (AML). Javier addresses business needs that can be managed through new technology, giving AML a competitive advantage across drug product.

Javier has over 13 years of experience in the Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology industry. Before joining Amgen, Javier held engineering experiences at Kimberly-Clark Corp., and Schering-Plough, LLC both local and globally. Within those roles he was responsible for leading cross functional teams across multiple capital

projects, process optimizations and routine commercial support.

Javier joined the Process Development function at Amgen in 2006 as purification engineer in Drug Substance and later moved to the Drug Product where he has extended his reach to the entire drug product spectrum, supporting key initiatives at manufacturing, machine vision, medical device assembly and packaging areas.

With main objective to move forward ongoing projects and identify key initiatives through a six-sigma culture, Javier manages a team of engineers and scientists engaged in the introduction of new technology that fosters commercialization of new product capabilities within the pipeline while bringing process improvements to our legacy.

Javier O. Tapia holds a bachelor’s degree in science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez.



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