

DELTA Speakers & Mentors

Program Organizers

Rebecca S. Lufler



Rebecca S. Lufler, PhD (she/her/hers) is an Associate Professor of Medical Education at Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM). Dr. Lufler helped develop, launch, and is Program Co-Director of the TUSM Scholarly Project Program, a requisite longitudinal medical student research program. Dr. Lufler completed the AAMC Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program, TUSM Educational Management and Leadership program, and is now involved in leading Faculty Development programs and sessions at TUSM. She Directs and Co-Directs multiple Clinical Anatomy courses within the Medical and Physician Assistant (PA) programs, and teaches in the Dental and Biomedical Sciences programs. Her teaching has been recognized via both administration and student nominated teaching awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award and 2021-22 Milton O. M30 and Natalie V. Zucker Clinical Teaching Award for Innovation (Medical School), Dean's Award for Excellence in Basic Science Teaching (Dental School), and Didactic Faculty of the Year Award (PA Program). Dr. Lufler's research includes innovations in medical education and curriculum, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on medical education and on academic medicine faculty. She is also involved in national collaborations on One Health interprofessional education. Within AAA, she has served on the Board of Directors, chaired the Educational Affairs Committee, and is currently a representative to the AAMC Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS).

Eustathia Lela Giannaris



Eustathia Lela Giannaris, PhD (she/her/hers) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology, Division of Translational Anatomy, at UMass Chan Medical School. She is the Director of Longitudinal Anatomy and oversees anatomical instruction throughout the undergraduate medical curriculum. She also serves as Co-Director for the Skin and Musculoskeletal System Block for first year medical students in the new integrated Vista curriculum. In addition, Dr. Giannaris is Vice-Chair of the Educational Policy Committee, the primary governing body for oversight of the entire undergraduate medical education program. Throughout her tenure at UMass, she has held multiple educational leadership and administrative roles, and has directed and developed various courses, programs, and curricula. Dr. Giannaris has been recognized for teaching and curricular innovations with multiple Outstanding Medical Educator and Educational (Star) Achievement awards. In 2022, she was recognized by the Women's Faculty Committee with the Sarah Stone Excellence in Education Award for exceptional contributions in education and curriculum development. Dr. Giannaris completed the AAMC Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Certificate program, the UMass Chan Junior Faculty Development Program, and participated in 3 Empowering Professional Women for Executive Roles (EMPOWER) Summits. Within AAA, she is currently the Vice-Chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Speakers & Mentors

Linda M. Afifi



Dr. Linda Afifi obtained her MA and PhD. in Anatomy and Neurobiology at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) where she is now an Assistant Professor. Dr. Afifi's teaching repertoire includes gross anatomy, advanced clinical anatomy, histology, and neuroscience for 1st year and senior medical or graduate students. Outside of teaching, academic activities for Dr. Afifi include graduate student advising, mentoring, and conducting anatomical and clinical research. Dr. Afifi's career interests expand beyond academia and as a result she obtained a Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Lesley University in Boston, MA in 2020. Currently, Dr. Afifi is also a mental health therapist and treats children and adults with anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, addiction, and other mental health conditions. Psychoeducation is a major component of Dr. Afifi's practice and she is passionate about utilizing her background in neuroscience to empower her patients understandings of the physiological and neurological components of their mental health.

Kirsten Brown



Kirsten Brown, Ph.D., M.A is an Associate Professor and the Vice Chair for Education Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (GWSMHS). Dr. Brown is the 2021-2025 Frank N. Miller Distinguished Teaching Professor and has been a GWSMHS faculty member since 2011. As the Vice-Chair for Education, Dr. Brown provides oversight for all of the anatomy-related educational programs for various student populations within the department, the school, and GW. She provides professional development and mentoring in educational scholarship and teaching to anatomy and SMHS faculty in this role as well. In July 2022, she transitioned her leadership role to one SMHS-wide as the new Associate Director for Teaching and Learning Resources and Career Development in the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE). Dr. Brown currently supports faculty teaching and career development across SMHS, including serving as a peer reviewer and a faculty panelist for the Junior Faculty Career Exploration & Development Programs and the Generating Scholarship from Your Classroom and Clinical Teaching Workshops. Dr. Brown has been a participant in multiple leadership-focused programs, including the SMHS Master Teacher Leadership Development Program, SMHS Fundamentals of Leadership Program, and the AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Leadership Development Program. Dr. Brown's leadership extends nationally as she has served on the American Association for Anatomy's Committee for Early Career Anatomists, Nominating Committee, and the Educational Affairs Committee. In her personal life, she dedicates her time to sorority leadership. For the past 15 years, she has held multiple positions in Delta Gamma Fraternity, including serving as President of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter from 2019-2021.

Lisa MJ Lee



Dr. Lisa MJ Lee is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Lee is an award-winning histology and embryology educator with over a decade of teaching experience in undergraduate, dental, and medication education. Dr. Lee has experience leveraging technologies such as virtual histology laboratories, virtual modeling software, 3D printing, and eye-tracking devices to increase accessibility to exceptional learning tools and advance evidence-based pedagogical practices. Dr. Lee has created virtual histology laboratory apps, co-established American Association for Anatomy's Virtual Histology Database, and authored two histology textbooks. She is also an award-winning mentor who has trained numerous graduate students who went on to win prestigious educational research, teaching, service awards, and have gone on to healthcare professions and higher education. Dr. Lee strives to support her students' holistic development as an individual and a contributing member of the global community by engaging in conversations about implicit and explicit bias and conducting research to reduce barriers in complex human interactions in high education.

Shaun Logan



Shaun Logan, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Texas A&M University School of Dentistry. Dr. Logan currently serves as the course director for Biological Foundations of Dentistry and Dental Pharmacology in the DDS curriculum. She earned her doctorate in Pharmacology & Neuroscience from the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, and her research focuses on estrogen and ephrin signaling as it relates to neurological and developmental disorders, respectively. Dr. Logan has a personal mission to encourage diversity in the scientific community at large, and currently serves as an ASM/ABRCMS faculty mentor, FASEB DE&I subcommittee member, and AAA Anatomy Scholars Program development committee member. Dr. Logan has also served on the Board of Directors for AAA and was an inaugural member of the DE&I Committee.

Jason M. Organ



Dr. Jason Organ is Associate Professor of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiology and Director of the Clinical Anatomy & Physiology MS Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine and Editor-in-Chief of Anatomical Sciences Education, the premier peer-reviewed journal for anatomy education research. He is also Co-Editor of the Public Library of Science (PLOS) Science Communication Blog and Co-Host of Science Night, a science news and stories podcast designed for the public. Dr. Organ earned an MA in Anthropology from the University of Missouri, a PhD in Functional Anatomy & Evolution from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and he completed a postdoctoral research

fellowship in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the Johns Hopkins Kennedy Krieger Institute. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed research papers on evolutionary and mechanical adaptations of bone and muscle in scientific journals and over 45 peer-reviewed teaching modules in digital human anatomy references. Dr. Organ recently completed a three-year term as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Anatomy (AAA), where he advocated for the importance of effective science communication and public outreach at the association level, with an emphasis on connecting with policymakers to ensure sufficient federal funding for science. In 2018, he received the prestigious AAA Basmajian Award for excellence in teaching gross anatomy and outstanding accomplishments in biomedical research and scholarship in education. Follow him on Twitter: @OrganJM.

Kimberly S. Topp



Kimberly Topp, PT, PhD, FAAA, is Professor and Chair Emeritus in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She completed her doctorate in Anatomy and Cell Biology at the University of California, Davis, and postdoctoral training in Neuroscience at UCSF. Dr. Topp taught anatomy for both physical therapy and medicine for 24 years and served as department chair in physical therapy for 11 years. Dr. Topp's research interests are in nerve biology and biomechanics, and clinical neuropathy following chemotherapeutic treatment for cancer. Dr. Topp has served on several AAA committees and as President of the Board of Directors. She currently serves as a mentor for the AAA Anatomy Scholars Program and chair of the Data Advisory Committee for the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy.

Paul Trainor



Dr. Paul Trainor is an Investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, a Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and the Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal *Developmental Dynamics*. Dr. Trainor's laboratory studies development, evolution, and disease with an emphasis on birth defects of the head and face, and organs such as the gastrointestinal tract. Dr. Trainor authored more than 175 peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, and book chapters, and edited two books, and is committed to mentoring through guiding, supporting, and promoting the training and career development of others. Dr. Trainor is a Fellow of the American Association of Anatomy (AAA) and was the inaugural recipient of AAA's Outstanding Mentor Award.

Jonathan J. Wisco



Dr. Jonathan J. Wisco is Associate Professor and Director of the Laboratory for Translational Anatomy of Degenerative Diseases and Developmental Disorders, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Boston University School of Medicine. The lab is interested in the histological validation of innovative imaging of anatomic pathologies that help reduce access barriers to care. Dr. Wisco is also interested in the educational scholarship of teaching and learning, notably on the topics of curriculum design, faculty development, learning tools innovation, service-learning, and inclusive learning environments. At the intersection of basic science and educational research, Dr. Wisco's lab is interested in the functional activation of the frontal lobe during active learning. He directs the non-profit organizations Better Learning Experiences, which provides underserved faculty development for K-12, community college, and undergraduate university professors; and Anatomy Academy, which teaches anatomy, physiology, and nutrition concepts to underserved elementary school children as an effort to promote healthy lifestyles through educational intervention, and to inspire kids to pursue science as a career.

Ann Zumwalt



Dr. Ann Zumwalt is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology in the Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine. She is an award-winning anatomy educator and curricular leader with a strong interest in integration of the basic and clinical sciences and building inclusive learning environments in undergraduate medical education. She was course director for the BUSM medical gross anatomy course for 10 years and has held numerous leadership positions in the medical and graduate school curricula. She has been an active member of the AAA since she was a graduate student and served on the Board of Directors, Professional Development Committee, and the Advisory Committee of Young Anatomists. Dr. Zumwalt is interested in the training and ongoing development of biomedical educators and is a core faculty member of the renowned Vesalius program for training graduate students as educators in the biomedical sciences. Her interests and research include preclerkship medical curricular design, faculty development, and training of biomedical educators. She has also worked on diversity and inclusion issues at every level of Boston University and the School of Medicine. She is currently the lead of the sexual and gender minority track of the medical school curriculum.