WELCOME!!

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MEET OUR STUDENTS

EXPLORE DURHAM

HOUSING

WHY DUKE?

WELCOME!!

We are bringing Duke to you through a Virtual Second Look that you can find detailed below. You can expect student profiles, an interactive map of Durham, a virtual housing tour, and fun tidbits along the way. Live Second Look events will begin Tuesday, March 16th with our MSTP-OPSD Symposium and run through Sunday, March 21st. More information can be found on our website! If you have any questions or concerns we are here to help!

To get things started, we have two short welcome videos from our MSTP Director and student council president:

A Word From Our Director - Dr. Christopher Kontos

A Welcome Video from Our Student Council President - Rebecca Gibson
Get ready for Duke to come to you! In addition to the resources provided from the Duke School of Medicine MD program, we are rolling out a special series of videos and resources for our admitted MSTP students. Our Instagram page, @dukemstp, will be the centralized source for our content. Give our account a follow and start getting to know our current students, what it’s like to live in Durham and train at Duke, and a glimpse at our homes. We are so excited to welcome you in the Fall! If you are unsure how to navigate our Instagram page, here is a short video showing you the different sections of our page.

We’ll be updating our Instagram with tons of new content throughout second look weekend, including housing tours, days of the life, and Q&A sessions! If you
want to follow along Duke MSTP even more, follow us on Twitter @DukeMSTP and Facebook @DukeMSTP.

Under the IGTV tab on our instagram page in the Get to know us! series you will find bio videos from current students and alumni discussing their stage in training and their decision to come to Duke. Check it out!
MEET OUR STUDENTS

Have a burning question for one of our current students? Want to chat about what it’s like to live in the South or how the third-years found their labs? We have a number of point-people from the various program stages signed-up to answer these questions and/or connect you with others who can help out. We all were in your shoes (some longer ago than others), and know how difficult this decision can feel. We are more than happy to help you understand why Duke was the fit for us. We hope it is for you too! Send us a direct message on our instagram account @dukemstp.

Click on the name or pictures of our current students in our program to view a short bio video!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jon Messerschmidt</th>
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<tr>
<td>● First Year MSTP Student (MS1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.messerschmidt@duke.edu">jonathan.messerschmidt@duke.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Alma Mater: Boston University</td>
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<td>● Research Interests: Immunology/Immunoinformatics</td>
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Check out our [website](#) for a full list of Duke MSTP students and their contact information!
Click on the name or pictures of our MSTP Alumni to view a short bio video!

**Jeffrey Smith, MD, PhD**
- 2019 MSTP Alumnus
- Email: js.smith@duke.edu
- Currently a PGY-2 at the Harvard Combined Dermatology Residency (MGH/BWH/BIDMC)
- Alma Mater: University of Washington
- PhD Department/Program: Biochemistry
- Research Mentor: Sudarshan Rajagopal, MD, PhD

**Melodi Javid Whitley, MD, PhD**
- 2017 MSTP Alumna
- Email: melodi.whitley@duke.edu or melodi.j.whitley@gmail.com
- Currently Chief Dermatology Resident at Duke University
- Alma Mater: University of Maryland
- PhD Department/Program: Molecular Cancer Biology
- Research Mentor: David Kirsch, MD, PhD

**Josh Rivenbark, MD, PhD**
- 2020 MSTP Alumnus
- Email: Joshua.Rivenbark@duke.edu
- Currently an Internal Medicine Resident at the University of Pennsylvania
- Alma Mater: Iowa State University
- PhD Department/Program: Sanford School of Public Policy
- Research Mentor: Kathryn Whetten, PhD & Candice Odgers, PhD
EXPLORE DURHAM

To see what our students do on a daily basis, follow the links below:

Some of our favorite Hobbies!

- GS3 Carolyn Diaz in Lab
- GS3 Lyra Olson walks you through a day in her life
- GS5 Dylan Eiger trains for a marathon on the American Tobacco Trail
- GS5 Megan Kelly walks you through a day in her life
- GS5 Jamie Courtland running with her dog

An Interactive Map Taking You Through Our Favorite Durham Spots

While you may not have made it to Durham in person, we still want to show you our favorite things about the city we get to call home during our training. This includes our favorite coffee shops, outdoor trails, the best spots to grab a bite to eat or a cocktail, as well as a few of our homes! Check out an interactive map created by the MS1 and MS2s to take you through Durham. Check out the interactive map here! If you need help navigating through the map, click here for a brief tutorial.
Welcome Home!

It is a big decision to decide where to live for the next chapter of your life, and we hope that giving you a look at the housing options in Durham lets you picture Durham as home. In our program, it is common for students to rent in their first couple of years in the program and ultimately to purchase a home. Our housing videos will take you through a variety of the options available. Check them out on our IGTV channel under the *Housing Tours Series* or via these links below!

- Tour an apartment @ [Station 9](#)
- Tour a duplex on 9th st.
- Tour a Townhome in [Thompson Ridge](#)
- Tour a 3 bed house
- Tour a [1 level home](#) near campus
- Tour a downtown house
WHY DUKE?

Hear why the MS1s choose Duke!

The MS1s in our MSTP pink scrubs outside of anatomy lab!

“I chose Duke after talking to a TON of current students, professors, and my fellow incoming classmates. I could clearly see what an amazing community is fostered within the Duke MSTP, and how supported the students are in both their academics, and in their well-being outside of school. I also loved Duke for the amazing quality of education provided and the huge number of potential labs I could see myself joining for the PhD years. At first, I was worried that Durham would be too small, but I’ve been really pleasantly surprised at the number of things to do and people to meet (safely and socially distanced, of course!) It also doesn’t hurt that my family is only a short drive away 😊” - Jane Blackmer, jeb134@duke.edu
“I connected the most with the students and I liked how supportive the faculty were. Plus there is lots of nature nearby!” -Danielle Burner, dnb25@duke.edu

“I chose Duke because of the amazing research faculty, the opportunity to do a clinical year before starting my PhD, and the quality of life in and around Durham. Most importantly, I loved the close-knit feel of the MSTP and wanted to be a part of a strong community throughout my many years at Duke!” -Lauren Parker, lep52@duke.edu

“For me the administration’s friendly attitude and caring personalities were a major selling point. Many programs have administrators that can help you professionally, but I was blown away by the personalized attention all of them give the students. It really makes you feel so well supported professionally and personally. Second, the formulation of the program was so appealing. I was nervous about accelerating the preclinical material, but the course directors are extremely experienced and have made the course flow like nothing else I’ve experienced. It’s crazy to think about how much I’ve learned in less than a year so far. Then pair that with the clinical year before starting the PhD and I think it’s a perfect way to hone in on what you want to do clinically before seeing how your research interests can fit into that. The integration of a unified program was amazing too. Both between years of the program and having a cohesive program throughout training rather than being in silos at different stages of training. Finally the students are so dedicated and so collaborate that it makes learning so much easier. Egos are so hard to come by. Everything outside of the program was also a major point for me. I wanted to do a lot of things in my personal life during this time and Durham makes all of that possible while still never leaving you unsatisfied. Whether it’s eating the best sushi I’ve ever had, grabbing a drink with friends at any number of the breweries in town, going to the beach or the mountains a short drive away, or spending the afternoon at the dog park, Durham has it all.” -Jon Messerschmidt, jlm221@duke.edu

“I’m currently very interested in doing my PhD in biomedical engineering, and Duke has an amazing department for BME! During the interview and second look weekend, I had a really good feeling about Duke and Durham – the students were very nice, faculty were accessible, and Durham seemed like a place I could see myself living for the next eight years. Plus, the weather is really lovely here (no more cold winters)” -Rachael Putman, rlp45@duke.edu

“I chose Duke because it felt like home. I really enjoy living in Durham and love the people here. I think the balance of city size and livability was perfect, and I always appreciate having great nature so close by.” -Harvey Shi, hys3@duke.edu
“I chose Duke for a number of reasons but the most important for me was the quality of life I would have living in Durham! It is a great size city where you have access to everything from concerts to delicious food to art museums (especially if you include Raleigh and Chapel Hill!) but it is affordable and not too big. Also as someone who always has her mind on the mountains, I was drawn to how easy it is to do day trips to nearby peaks (Pilot Mountain, Hanging Rock) or weekend trips to the Blue Ridge Mountains and Pisgah National Forest! The shortened preclinical curriculum, amazing research, and people I met all further contributed to why I chose Duke.”
-Margaret Weber, mcw83@duke.edu

“Here are the reasons I chose Duke: 1- I really loved the vibe of the research program here and how much cutting edge research there was yet how chill and collaborative everyone seemed to be. In my research experiences so far, I think this was a completely accurate assessment, it is so easy and great to set up collaborations without politics and it’s unlike anything I have been a part of before. 2- The MSTP program and leadership really seems like they have your back and that was incredible. 3- My peers who were accepted with me are incredible people who I would enjoy learning from and getting to know over the X many years. 4- The curriculum allows you to save at least a year in the MSTP program. 5- Duke is a great place to live, great quality of life yet low costs of living, allowing the MSTP stipend to go pretty far and was an incredible opportunity to buy a house and start being an adult.”
-Aditya Mohan, aam131@duke.edu