

# Peter Chen – Preliminary



Medical School

Oakland University William  
Beaumont School of  
Medicine

Undergraduate School

University of Michigan  
BSE, Biomedical Engineering

Awards

Alpha Omega Alpha

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## Representative Publication/Presentation

Chen PF, Dailey W, Mitton KP. Effects of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor on Cell Signaling Pathways in Retinal Neovascularization Diseases. American College of Physician, Medical Student Day Conference. April 28, 2017.

## Languages Spoken

Chinese

## Hobbies

Cooking Chinese and Korean food; Playing and watching basketball, avid fan of the Detroit Pistons;  
Playing acoustic guitar

## Personal Statement

A vivid memory from medical school was briefly having my sight taken away at Dining in the Dark, a fundraising event for the Ophthalmology Interest Group. The moment we stepped into a local Italian restaurant, we were blindfolded to experience an evening of dining without our vision. That night, I discovered how the simplest actions can become so difficult. Whether I was attempting to reach my eating utensils or to finish up my pasta entree, I found myself making multiple attempts to accomplish each task. I recognized how important my vision was, and it reminded me of why I aspired to be an ophthalmologist who could help to preserve others' vision.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

When I interviewed at Cincinnati, I loved the patient-centered care model that is part of the program, and I also enjoyed meeting the residents and faculty there who contribute to such a great culture of compassion and care for one another and for patients. In addition, I believe that residency at University of Cincinnati will help prepare me to become not only a skilled physician, but also one that advocates for my patients to provide the best possible care for them.

# Jared Ebert – Preliminary



Medical School

University of Cincinnati College  
of Medicine

Undergraduate School

University of Montevallo  
BS, Biochemistry

Awards

Alpha Omega Alpha

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## Representative Publication/Presentation

**Ebert J**, Sisk RA. CRAO in Moyamoya Syndrome associated with Southampton Hemoglobinopathy. Accepted for publication to OSLI Retina June 5th 2018.

W.W.-Y. Kao, **Ebert J**, Patterson I, M. Call. PPAR-gamma and inflammation in meibomian gland dysfunction. Gordon Research Conference - Cornea, Biology and Pathobiology. Poster Presentation, Ventura, CA. 2018.

M. Call, W.W.-Y. Kao, **Ebert J**. Meibomian Gland Dysfunction: Role of PPAR. ARVO. Baltimore, Md. 2017.

**Ebert J**, W.W.-Y. Kao, M. Call. Role of PPAR-gamma in Meibomian Gland Function. University of Cincinnati Ophthalmology Regional Research Symposium. Cincinnati, OH. 22 April 2017.

## Hobbies

International medical work, Golf, Running

## Personal Statement

That first night in rural South Sudan, and many others like it in the following ten weeks, awakened in me a deep desire to focus on preventable disease and disability. This began that first night in the pediatric ward, in the presence of typhoid fever and malaria, but it came into especially clear focus as I sat with innumerable elderly patients who were going blind from mature cataracts. Patient after patient presented to our hospital with disabling cataracts. We had no choice but to simply and sadly send them away still suffering; without the proper resources there was nothing we could do for them at our little hospital. Every time I sat down with a patient to have this conversation, I felt a sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach. I did not know how to tell these people, who were on the brink of losing their sight, that while there was a short surgery that could restore their vision, it could not be performed here. Knowing why was even more unsettling: these patients lived in a part of the world that simply lacked the resources and training to restore fundamental vision. These unsettling moments led me to realize that I wanted to make ophthalmology my life's work. These patients not only lost vision, they lost the ability to work and provide for their families. They lost the joy of seeing their children and grandchildren grow and flourish. Some even told us they lost a sense of meaning in life. It was in those moments that I caught a glimpse of both the privileges and responsibilities of caring for a patient's health.

## **Jared Ebert (continued)**

### **Why I Chose Cincinnati**

While attending medical school at the University of Cincinnati it became clear to me that Cincinnati was an incredible place to train and live. The mentors and departments across the board are second to none. I fell in love with the city and the University from the second I arrived for medical school and that feeling rang true through all four years. After matching at UC for ophthalmology residency, I was incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to do a combined preliminary year with the internal medicine and ophthalmology departments combining world-class training in both departments.

# Tony Jiang - Preliminary



Medical School

University of Cincinnati  
College of Medicine

Undergraduate School

Duke University  
BS, Chemistry  
BSE, Biomedical Engineering

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## Representative Publication/Presentation

Jiang TT, Shao T, Ang WXC, Kinder JM, Turner L, Pham G, Whitt J, Alenghat T, Way SS (2017). Commensal fungi replace the protective benefits of intestinal bacteria. *Cell Host Microbe* 22(6): 809-816. PMID: 29174402

Jiang TT, Martinov T, Xin L, Kinder JM, Spanier JA, Fife BT, Way SS (2016). Programmed Death-1 Culls Peripheral Accumulation of High-Affinity Autoreactive CD4 T cells to Protect against Autoimmunity. *Cell Rep* 17(7): 1783-1794. PMID: 27829150

Jiang TT, Chaturvedi V, Ertelt JM, Xin L, Clark DR, Kinder JM, Way SS (2015). Commensal enteric bacteria lipopolysaccharide impairs host defense against disseminated *Candida albicans* fungal infection. *Mucosal Immunol* 8(4): 886-95. PMID: 25492473

Jiang TT, Chaturvedi V, Ertelt JM, Kinder JM, Clark DR, Valent AM, Xin L, Way SS. (2014). Regulatory T cells: new keys for further unlocking the enigma of fetal tolerance and pregnancy complications. *J Immunol* 192(11): 4949-56. PMID: 24837152

Elahi S, Ertelt JM, Kinder JM, Jiang TT, Zhang X, Xin L, Chaturvedi V, Strong BS, Qualls JE, Steinbrecher KA, Kalfa TA, Shaaban AF, Way SS (2013). Immunosuppressive CD71<sup>+</sup> erythroid cells compromise neonatal host defence against infection. *Nature* 504(7478): 158-62. PMID: 24196717

## Hobbies

iOS Apple Application Developer

## Personal Statement

A “war on cancer” was declared in the 1970s given the limited and ineffective oncologic treatment options available at that time. This ongoing “war” calls for concerted, multi-disciplinary efforts to better understand and apply cancer biology. The resulting scientific discoveries have revolutionized the landscape of cancer therapeutics and markedly improved the prognoses for nearly all types of cancers today. Inspired by how advancements in science and technology conquer seemingly near impossibilities, I decided to pursue an academic career by enrolling in the Medical Scientist Training Program. I was fortunate to receive personalized mentorships that helped foster and mature my basic science and clinical acumen. With support from my institution and direct awards from a predoctoral NIH fellowship, I was able to initiate and complete my research thesis related to human microbiology. These formative experiences provided me with the tools and opportunities to investigate the highest impact scientific questions and develop an optimal strategy to advance knowledge in my field. They also have driven my future interests towards answering the most pressing clinical questions.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

I had a great time on my interview at Cincinnati and enjoyed my experiences with the residents and faculty. I am also excited to stay in Cincinnati after having completed medical school here.

# Chris Kanner – Preliminary



Medical School

University of Cincinnati College  
of Medicine

Undergraduate School

The Ohio State University  
BS, Biomedical Engineering

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## Representative Publication/Presentation

Volz KR, Evans KD, Kanner CD, Buford JA, Freimer M, Sommerich CM. Molecular ultrasound imaging of the spinal cord for the detection of acute inflammation. J Diagn Med Sonogr. 2017;33(6):454-463.

## Hobbies

Building and overclocking computers, automotive enthusiast

## Personal Statement

My earliest introduction to medical imaging was provided in my childhood by my mother, a radiologic technologist. She would often show me interesting x-rays films on a portable view box. Most showed large fractures visible to my untrained eyes, but I enjoyed the exercise of identifying the site of the fracture and recalling the bone names that she had taught me. Though this was long before I would decide to pursue a career in radiology, these experiences were the origin of my interest in health care. This interest led me to pursue biomedical engineering as my undergraduate degree. During this time, I also worked in a research lab exploring the use of targeted ultrasound contrast agents. Throughout medical school, I strived to keep an open mind regarding what specialty I would eventually choose, but as I considered the various aspects of each rotation that were most rewarding the image of my future career became clear. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to learn in a specialty that combines all the reasons why I chose to study medicine.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

During my rotations as a medical student at UC, I had the opportunity to work with many of the residents and faculty. After witnessing their constant enthusiasm, dedication to learning, and the strong sense of camaraderie exhibited by the residents, it was an easy decision to stay in Cincinnati for my preliminary year.

# Derek Leale- Preliminary



Medical School

Oakland University William  
Beaumont School of Medicine

Undergraduate School

University of California, Davis  
BS, Neurology, Physiology, and  
Behavior

Awards

Alpha Omega Alpha

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## Hobbies

Photography; Computer Hardware and software; Fledgling Cook

## Personal Statement

Throughout my life, I have had a persistent love of problem solving, troubleshooting, and performing intricate repairs. When we were young, my brother and I would beg our father to let us take apart broken household items, eager to get a look at the inner workings and prove ourselves capable of reversing the damage. Disassembling items, discovering their mechanisms, and piecing them back together again sparked my curiosity and fueled my passion for problem solving. What I realized much later is that the most important lesson I was learning was not how to fix fans and vacuum cleaners, but how to analyze a problem. With each new exploration, I learned how to examine the pieces of a broken system and build an understanding of the underlying failure. Using this ability to restore functionality to something broken is a skill which I've found a passion for in many areas of my life, and I believe ophthalmology is the ultimate conclusion of that pursuit.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

UC's emphasis on robust clinical experience as well as early surgical exposure is exactly what I was looking for in a program. I was also impressed by the unique combination of a university hospital, VA, renowned children's hospital, and partnership with the Cincinnati Eye Institute for private practice exposure. Additionally, the unique integrated preliminary medicine/ophthalmology intern year will help quickly develop a balanced fund of knowledge.

# Brandon Messick - Preliminary



Medical School

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic  
Medicine

Undergraduate School

West Chester University of  
Pennsylvania  
BS, Cellular and Molecular  
Biology

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## Representative Publication/Presentation

AMSER Case of the Month – June 2018 – B. Messick OMSIV & Matthew Hartman, M.D. - <https://www.aur.org/Case-of-the-Month/2018>

## Hobbies

Sports, Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates fan; Hiking and exploring various state parks; Camping; Riding my mountain bike on trails and bike paths; Traveling; Video Games, Board Games

## Personal Statement

Throughout my life, I have met people of different backgrounds and skills. I was fortunate to travel to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland as a teenager, where I enjoyed chatting with the locals and learning about their ways of life. This eagerness to talk with and learn about others carried over to my clinical rotations. For example, on a Radiology-Pathology rotation, I was able to discuss a case of esophageal carcinoma with the surgeon, radiologist and pathologist. I discovered how much radiology permeates all fields of medicine when I witnessed the extent to which radiologists work with physicians of different specialties. The ability to communicate effectively with all members of the patient care team is indispensable to the Diagnostic Radiologist.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

I chose Cincinnati because I was incredibly impressed with the residents, faculty and program in general. The focus on patient centered care, and commitment to taking better care of the patients by learning in a supportive atmosphere was appealing. Also, I have family in Cincinnati that have wanted me to live here for as long as I can remember and I very much look forward to exploring this great city.

# Christa Nnoromele- Preliminary



Medical School

University of Cincinnati  
College of Medicine

Undergraduate School

Rice University  
BA, Biochemistry and Cell  
Biology

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## Languages Spoken

Spanish

## Hobbies

Exploring new restaurants, running, and cycling

## Personal Statement

The values embodied by psychiatrists are the exact ones that I have exemplified throughout my education. As an undergraduate at Rice University, I worked as a free tutor for underserved high school students in Houston. I encouraged the students to see beyond their immediate situation and to look towards the lives and opportunities they could have in the future. I created study materials to supplement their classroom instructions and worked with the same group students over multiple semesters. In medical school, I volunteered for multiple different mentoring programs, including serving as the Co-Coordinator for the University of Cincinnati Medical Volunteers (MEDVoUC). This organization provides free medical care and education to two of the largest homeless shelters in Cincinnati. Through these experiences, I have learned how to persevere in difficult situations, and to keep the values of honesty, integrity, and determination at the forefront.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

I wanted to stay in a program where I knew I would see the sickest patients and those difficult cases to fully prepare me for my next steps in PM&R training. I knew I wanted to stay in Cincinnati for this first year of training, and UC Health is the only program in the city that met those requirements for me.

# Lexi Sebren - Preliminary



Medical School

Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport

Undergraduate School

Centenary College of Louisiana  
BS, Neuroscience (Cum Laude with departmental honors)

Awards

Alpha Omega Alpha

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## Representative Publication/Presentation

**Sebren A**, Byrd W, Langford M. Methylene Blue Inhibits Bacterial NOD Ligand Induced Rabbit Kidney (RK13) Tubule Cell Death. Poster presented by Sebren A. at: American Society for Microbiology South Central Branch Meeting; October 2017; Little Rock, AR.

## Hobbies

Blogging; Reading; Traveling; Knitting; Singing

## Personal Statement

When I was little, I had so many dreams of what I could be, but now I wondered whom I wanted to be. During my sophomore year, I attended a lecture on "living a better story." I left that lecture feeling my story lacked meaning. To rediscover why I wanted to become a doctor, I volunteered at a free health clinic. I checked in patients, and before they left, I instructed them how to take each of their medications. With each patient encounter, I felt a growing sense of purpose in helping these people; my world was changing again, this time for the better. I realized that I wanted my story to be about a life dedicated to serving patients as a physician.

## Why I Chose Cincinnati

On my interview day at UC, I was so impressed with how my "interviews" with faculty were genuine conversations. They treated me like a colleague, and I knew that if I matched here I would be both learning and contributing to the team! Everyone was so warm and welcoming that I knew Cincinnati would be a wonderful new home.