



**EMORY**  
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MEDICINE

# Hurst Happenings

Emory Internal Medicine Chief Residents Newsletter

April 2020 - July 2020

**J. Willis Hurst**  
Internal Medicine  
Residency Program  
Department of Medicine



Dear Hurst residents,

The summer is synonymous with chaos in the world of academic medicine: new interns, new senior residents, new fellows, new attendings. This year, the uncertainty and apprehension that understandably comes with major change is catalyzed by a global pandemic and the violent reminders of the systemic racism that continuously threatens our community. It is a challenging time to be a physician, especially a new one. In light of these hardships, we could not be more proud of our new intern class for approaching their first months of residency with eagerness and curiosity, and the senior residents for being patient with the fundamental changes to their routine (did we mention X+Y??).

We want to encourage each of you to find an opportunity to pause and reflect on the good that surrounds us. Scattered throughout the whirlwind last few months, there have been moments of joy: weddings, engagements, births. And of course, the graduation of the residency class of 2020, who now have started fellowship and jobs across the country, showing others what it means to be #GradyMade and #EmoryProud. While we may be celebrating these events differently than a year ago (and hopefully a year from now), it is still worthwhile to pause and be thankful for the families, professional and personal, that make these moments worthwhile.

Please take a moment to look through this edition of Hurst Happenings to see some of the happier moments from the last few months, learn a little more about a few of your colleagues, and yes, hear Patrick's latest cheeseburger related opinions. There will be more challenges, both expected and unexpected, to come in the next few months (virtual interviews anyone?), but we cannot imagine a better group of residents to have along for the ride.

Your chiefs: Amalia, Chris, Eli, Hima, Liz, and Patrick

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# #HurstLife





## Real Resident Heroes

**Matt J. Brown** came in before 7 a.m. for an ICU shift, was told he actually wasn't needed that day, went home, and then was called in for a 19-hour jeopardy shift later that morning. His response? "Happy to help!"

**Shivang Desai** happily offered to switch and work a weekend to help out a co-resident, and then worked an overnight Grady MICU shift as a PGY2 - all without a single complaint!

**Alex Magee** helped with a last-minute clinic switch in late June and saved the day.

Both **Graham Smith** and **Avery Calhoun** were very flexible and understanding when there was an issue with their templates.

**Avni Amratia** had an incredibly positive attitude when being called in for overnight jeopardy. Thanks Avni!

I would like to take this opportunity to commend **Collins Mbonu** for excellent care provided to a critical patient admitted to the MICU at Emory University Hospital. There were many challenges with several medical family members across the country. He did an excellent job in his communication to a clinical nurse specialist who was able to have a better understanding of the patient's history and family dynamics. Because of his thorough closed loop communication, our team included the patient's PCP and TEC pulmonologist who also cares for her and has a long term relationship with her and the family. The patient's and family's wishes have been honored after a detailed family team conference. Many thanks to Mbonu for being a great patient advocate!

**Adam Spandorfer** stepped up to the plate in clinic during his first ever Y week and helped out another resident who was busy with other patients.

Send your shoutouts to **Eli Wilber** at [eli.wilber@emory.edu](mailto:eli.wilber@emory.edu)!



## Congratulatory Corner



**Joey Sharp got married!**



**Patricia Cheung had a baby!**



**Melroy D'Souza got engaged!**

# Resident Spotlight

DEANNA GILL, PGY1



***Where are you from?***

I am coming from Philadelphia. I went to college at Temple University and medical school at Thomas Jefferson University.

***What are your long-term plans?***

I don't have any solid plans, except I know I want to have many dogs and continue rock climbing forever. Other than that, I have a soft spot for electrophysiology, teaching, and caring for those experiencing homelessness. Quite the spread!

***What is the best vacation you have ever taken?***

My favorite vacation was in 2018 to Croatia. I went with a friend, and we hiked and rock climbed along Croatia's beautiful coast. Most of the mountains I climbed were set above the Adriatic Sea and the views were unreal. My idea of a relaxing vacation is definitely different.

***What is one thing about your college/med school town that you haven't been able to replace in Atlanta?***

It's still hard to tell, but I have chatted with other people that came here from Philly and it sounds like the food might be better in Philly, specifically the Italian!

***Favorite place to eat in Atlanta?***

I haven't been able to eat out much since I have been here, but the day before my interview I went to Ponce City Market and had some edible cookie dough from Batter, and that was amazing!



# Chief Resident Spotlight

LIZ MCCORD



**Where are you from?**

New Orleans, Louisiana (WHO DAT nation)

**What are your long-term plans?**

Outpatient addiction medicine/primary care

**Any new hobbies in the time of COVID-19?**

Stamp collecting! I was fond of vintage stamps before COVID-19 but it wasn't until the pandemic that I took it to the next level! Now I have a collection of approximately 1000 stamps dating as far back as 1892.

**What is the best vacation you have ever taken?**

Weekend safari in Kenya while working in Ethiopia for a month.

**What is one thing about your college/med school town that you haven't been able to replace in Atlanta?**

Crawfish, Saints, and the Empire State Building

**Favorite place to eat in Atlanta?**

Folk Art (We live around the corner and would go once a week before the pandemic.)





## BurgerMD Recommends

It is unusual for a restaurant to open its doors during a pandemic, but The Companion, located at 2316 Marietta Road Northwest in Atlanta's Upper Westside, did it just right. While not considered officially open, you are able to put in an order for either takeout, or to eat at their outdoor patio with “socially distanced” tables. Chef Andy Gonzales is behind its concept, and for any of you who know Steinbeck’s Ale House in Decatur, this is a sister restaurant.

The menu is relatively simple, not a whole lot of options, but for those of you who love burgers and wings, this is the right place for that. On my visit there, they had two options for burgers and both were great. The Tower of Power double-patty beef burger was a great take on a classic cheeseburger, but the Steinbeck burger (which I liked way more) is for the Pimento cheese lovers. They come with tater tots, which are a perfect side. Their wings are also smoked, my favorite kind. The menu may change depending on the day, but those are definitely a few of the great recommendations. The staff is EXTREMELY kind. They have hand sanitizer, and the waiters wear gloves and masks.

I definitely recommend this place, especially for takeout or getting to sit in a safe outdoor space during the pandemic. Hope you enjoy!

- BurgerMD (IG: burger\_md)

