

CLINICAL INFORMATICS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Fellows

Class of 2024

**Ben Gifford, DO**

Residency: Internal Medicine –HonorHealth Thompson Peak Medical Center

Dr Ben Gifford is from Arizona and feels fortunate to stay local throughout his educational journey. He studied biochemistry and business at Arizona State University before attending medical school at Midwestern University Arizona College of Medicine. Dr Gifford's has clinical interests in gastroenterology as well as system process engineering, improving patient outcomes, and reducing physician workload through technology.

In his spare time, he enjoys scuba diving, traveling, home remodeling, auto mechanics, entrepreneurial startups, and technology just to name a few. He has a sincere passion for learning how things work and developing new skills needed to be able to use, build, fix or improve things. Dr Gifford says he chose this Informatics program because of the

leaders, attendings, mentors, and respectful and supportive teams he has found at HonorHealth.

**Lin Zhao, MD**

Residency: Preventative Medicine – University of Wisconsin

Dr. Lin Zhao Dr. Zhao earned her medical degree from University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She continued her Preventive Medicine Residency at UWSMPH. During her residency, she focused on data collection and analysis in clinical trials. She also gained insight in health equity when working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Service to distribute COVID-19 therapeutics throughout the state.

Her professional interests include population health, health equity, cost effective analysis, and health care quality improvement.

Dr. Zhao loves trail running, mountain biking, and everything outdoors. She fell in love with the fellows and faculties at HonorHealth during her interview. After spending 13 years in Wisconsin, she is excited to relocate to Arizona to learn clinical informatics and explore the beautiful Arizona trails.

Class of 2025**Kumar Nagarajan, MD**

Residency: Family Medicine, University of North Dakota

Dr Nagarajan's passion for medicine took root during childhood years spent working in a family owned pharmacy in Queens, NY. This early exposure to healthcare led to the pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree at Stony Brook University, followed by medical studies at Ross University. Real-world experience and a deeper understanding of the healthcare profession were gained during a residency in rural North Dakota. This journey revealed multiple challenges in healthcare delivery, including inconsistencies in medical records, reconciliation difficulties in medication administration records, excessive wait times for external medical records, varying practice standards, inefficient documentation procedures and hurdles in prior authorizations. Joining a team dedicated to addressing these issues is the aim for the future.

Outside of the professional sphere, enjoyment is found with caring for several pet guinea pigs, cooking, listening to music, and exercising.

The decision to join HonorHealth was influenced by the desire for increased collaboration within a large city, despite the high temperatures. Being close in proximity to technological innovation and working with an outstanding team and mentors.

**Collin Pitts, MD**

Residency: Preventative Medicine – University of Wisconsin

After studying Mathematics and Chemistry at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, Dr. Collin Pitts MD, MPH attended the University of Minnesota Medical School. In addition, prior to medical school, Dr. Pitts accepted a Health Professions Scholarship Program through the United States Navy. After graduating medical school, Dr. Pitts completed an internship in Family Medicine at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, and he decided to complete his service obligation after his Internship. He spent the next four years attached to United States Marine Corps units out of Camp Lejeune and spent some time abroad as Battalion Surgeon of 2d Battalion, 8th Marines. After his time as a Navy physician, Dr. Pitts completed his residency at University of Wisconsin-Madison in Preventive Medicine where he also obtained his MPH. Upon graduation, Dr. Pitts accepted a position as Associate Professor at University Health Services -UW-Madison as the Associate Director of Campus Health.

After some time at UHS, Dr. Pitts stepped away from professional duties due to childcare issues during the pandemic, however, he still supported the UW-Madison Preventive Medicine Program with grant writing assistance. During this time, Dr. Pitts applied to the HonorHealth Clinical Informatics Fellowship after having had significant exposure to informatics during his time with UW-Madison. He is excited to join the Clinical Informatics team at HonorHealth and was impressed with the integrated team's approach to training and scope of training within the program. He has extensive training in health equity and population health but truly enjoys assessing and using health systems to obtain better health outcomes.

Outside of his professional duties, Dr. Pitts can be found with his two young children, usually creating with Legos or trying to wear them out with outdoor activities.