PERMANENTE MEDICINE
Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group

Mid-Atlantic Permanente Research Institute

2025 – 2026 Physician Research Scholars



James Liu, MD

Mentor: Suma Vupputuri, PhD, MPH, FAHA

Dr. Liu is an Oncologist located at the Caton Hill Medical Center.

He was a bench scientist at GlaxoSmithKline before beginning medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Liu completed a Hematology-Oncology Fellowship at University of California Davis Medical Center before joining MAPMG.

Dr. Liu's research project will focus on the identification of predictive risk factors for unplanned hospital admissions for a subset of patients undergoing treatment for metastatic solid cancer. It is hoped the information learned through this project will lead to increased shared decision-making between physicians and patients.

Abstracts:
Liu J, Sheu Y-S, Chesbrough K, and Vupputuri S. Predictors of Frequent (≥3) Unplanned Hospitalizations After Chemotherapy in Solid Tumor Patients. **2026 American Society for Clinical Oncology Quality Care Symposium**; October 16-17, 2026; Boston, MA.

Publications:
Coming Soon!



Andra DiStefano, MD

Mentors: Nancy S. Weinfield, PhD and Cabell Jonas, PhD

Dr. DiStefano is an Anesthesiologist in South Baltimore County.

She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. She then completed an internship in Transitional Medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center followed by residency in anesthesia and perioperative care at University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. DiStefano's research is inspired by her firearm safety advocacy volunteer activities. She plans to learn more about the perceptions and experiences of physicians regarding firearm safety screening and leverage findings for the identification and development of tools for effective patient counseling.

Abstracts:

DiStefano A, Chesbrough K, Heliste J, Mohadikar KN, Jonas MC, and Weinfield NS. Physician Motivation to Conduct Patient Firearm Access Screening and Safety Counseling. **2026 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms**; December 9-11, 2026; Baltimore, MD.

Publications:

Coming Soon!