

Happy
Birthday!

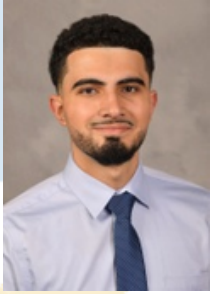
Director: Dr. Adam Waickman
Assistant Director: Dr. Auyon Ghosh
Coordinator: Andrea Cifonelli

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
MD/PhD Program

MD/PHD

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



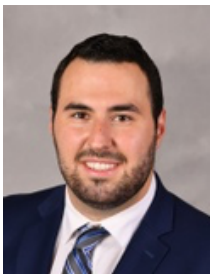
AWS
Jul 15



Saisha
Jul 21



Dr. Ghosh
Jul 24



Nick
Jul 27



Grace
Jul 30



Kaleb
Jul 30

As I pass the baton of MD/PhD director to Adam Waickman's capable hands, I wanted to say how much I've enjoyed working with all of you during the past year. It's been great to meet with you individually and hear about your MD/PhD journeys and also to join you as a group for Grand Rounds. A year ago, I had no idea I would become director, but I've learned a lot and it's been a good experience. A special thanks to Andrea and Auyon for helping me get up to speed and for their devoted service to the program. For those of you who haven't finished your Ph.D., I hope to be there for your defenses! My door, email, and Zoom link are always open if you want to talk. Best wishes as you all proceed through the program.

-Patty



ICYMI

Message from Dr. Adam Waickman

Dear MD/PhD trainees,

I'm writing to introduce myself as the incoming Director of the MD/PhD Program here at SUNY Upstate. I'm honored to step into this role, and I'm genuinely looking forward to getting to know each of you and supporting you through all stages of your training.

Before anything else, I want to recognize and thank Dr. Patty Kane for her leadership of the program and for making this a smooth transition. I'm grateful for her guidance and support as I get up to speed.

A little about me: I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and my lab studies viral immunology, with a primary focus on dengue virus. I've had the privilege of mentoring several MD/PhD trainees during my time at Upstate, so I've seen firsthand how demanding – and how rewarding – this journey can be. As a program, we hold high expectations and will hold you to a very high standard. I hope, and expect, that you will hold me and the program to that same standard in return, and I look forward to continuing to build on the program's strengths together.

I'm also looking forward to partnering with our Program Coordinator, Andrea Cifonelli - whom you already know as an invaluable resource and the beating heart of the program - and with our Medical Co-Director, Dr. Auyon Ghosh. Together we're committed to making sure you have the support, mentorship, and advocacy you need to thrive.

I'm looking forward to meeting more of you face-to-face at program events over the summer, and I'd be glad to set up an in-person meeting in the near future for anyone who is interested.

Cheers,

Adam T. Waickman, PhD
Director, MD/PhD Program
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
SUNY Upstate Medical University
766 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210



MDPhD Picnic



Tri-I MD/PhD Regional Conference

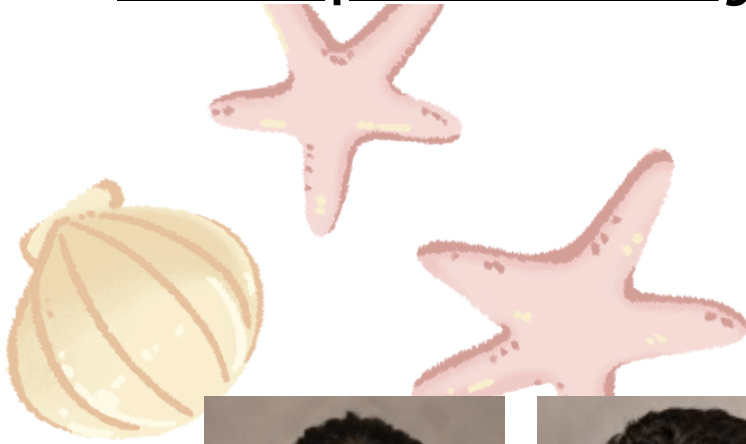
November 14, 2026

Please consider joining our planning committee. Email Andrea, if interested.



Publications

Derivation of a peripheral blood-based transcriptomic risk score for extrapulmonary sarcoidosis



Fall Advisement (MS1, MS2, PhD):

- sign-up for a time to meet with Dr. Waickman for fall advisement by Friday, July 17th



Grand Rounds:

- Please take some time to review the 2026/7 Grand Rounds Schedule.
- Ensure your name is on it (excluding MS3's) and let me know, if not
 - You're allowed to switch with a colleague, but you must notify me.
- Review the Expectations + Guidelines for your training level (on separate tabs)
- Mark your calendar for your presentation NOW
- Note for PhD students: Start working to select an NEJM case with a clinical mentor ASAP. You must also invite the clinician to Grand Rounds for your presentation. There is plenty of time now, so please do not wait on this. The clinician will serve as a visiting medical educator for Grand Rounds on the evening of your presentation. We can accommodate virtual visits, but please encourage in-person. Of course, there will always be a good meal, so let them know!