

Trisha Lal

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Current Address

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Permanent Address

4328 Dresden St.
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EDUCATION

Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, DC 2018-2022
Doctor of Medicine

University of Maryland, College Park, MD 2013-2017
Bachelor of Science
Major in Biological Sciences with a Specialization in Physiology and Neurobiology
Minor in Human Development

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 2024-2026
Master of Clinical Research

RESEARCH

Case Western Reserve University Hospitals: Allen Scholar 2024-2026
Dr. Richard Hoehn, Case Western Reserve University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH

- Two-year research fellowship involving clinical research studies on disparities within care for surgical patients with gastrointestinal cancers
- Topics of study: health literacy, social determinants of health, financial burden, resource allocation

Case Western Reserve University Hospitals: Research Assistant 2023

Dr. Luke Rothermel, Case Western Reserve University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH

- Conducted in-depth literature reviews on the utility of SLNB in melanoma.
- Assisting with data interpretation by contributing to manuscript writing.

Poster Presentation

Hanna Kashish, **Trisha Lal**, Luke Rothermel, Richard Hoehn. The Importance of Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Lentigo Maligna Melanoma. Academic Surgical Congress. 2024.

Urology Research Interest Group: Research Affiliate 2020-2022

Dr. Adam Metwalli, Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC

- Detailed innovative, minimally invasive operative techniques and performed analyses of postoperative outcomes in bilateral robotic nephrectomy patients.

Pancreatic and Hepatobiliary Surgery Research Affiliate 2020-2022

Dr. Steven Cunningham, St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, MD

- Completed entry of imaging, pathology, and complications seen in previous cholecystectomy patients into RedCAP database for future analysis.

Ortho Bethesda: Research Assistant 2020-2021

Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Ortho Bethesda, Bethesda, MD

- Called patients scheduled for upcoming spinal surgeries to consent them regarding collection of preop and postop data to monitor results of bone grafts being used during the procedure.

National Institutes of Health: Special Volunteer 2019-2022

Dr. Robert Hufnagel, National Eye Institute, Bethesda, MD

- Curated and digitized a large collection of ocular pathology slides to be utilized in the future through an online database. Conducted research on retinitis pigmentosa using archived data from said ocular pathology

collection. Collaborated with physicians and scientists from various departments throughout the NIH. Published a first author paper on my findings in JAMA Ophthalmology.

Poster Presentations

Trisha Lal, Zu Xi Yu, Bin Guan, Chelsea Bender, Chi-Chao Chan, Catherine Cukras, Robert B. Hufnagel. Clinical and Histopathologic Correlates of Asymmetric Retinitis Pigmentosa. Howard University College of Medicine Research Day. Washington, DC. 2019.

Trisha Lal, Zu Xi Yu, Bin Guan, Chelsea Bender, Chi-Chao Chan, Catherine Cukras, Robert B. Hufnagel. An Asymmetric Case of Retinitis Pigmentosa Studied on Autopsied Eyes. NIH Summer Intern Poster Day. Bethesda, MD. 2019.

Social and Moral Development Laboratory: Undergraduate Research Assistant

2016-2017

Dr. Melanie Killen, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Engaged in a variety of studies, involving topics like perception of race and wealth as well as resource allocation in children. Organized numerous sessions with participants, usually pre-school aged, as part of these studies. Transcribed audio recordings of sessions, completed data entry using SPSS, and coded data.

Center for Addictions, Personality, and Emotions Research: Undergraduate Research Assistant

2014-2015

Dr. Richard Yi, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Took part in the Value and Pursuit of Academic Goals study in which we applied construal-level thinking, which states that abstract mental representations are associated with a preference to what is psychologically distal, to academic delay of gratification. Administered study protocols to student participants, performed data entry, and completed relevant literature reviews.
- Mentored freshmen students interested in participating in research as part of the university's First-Year Innovation and Research Experience (FIRE) program.

National Institutes of Health: Summer Internship Program

2014

Dr. Perwez Hussain, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD

- Assisted in an ongoing project investigating the role of nitric oxide in mechanisms of pancreatic cancer development, contributing to the finding that an increase in nitric oxide synthase gene expression is associated with poor survival.
- Learned and executed laboratory techniques like immunohistochemistry, ELISA cytokine arrays, Western blotting, gel electrophoresis, and PCR.

Poster Presentation

Trisha Lal, Jian Wang, Peijun He, Matthias M. Gaida, Shouhui Yang, Aaron Schetter, Jochen Gaedcke, B. Michael Ghadimi, Thomas Ried, Harris G. Yfantis, Dong H. Lee, Jonathan M. Weiss, Nader Hanna, H. Richard Alexander, Perwez Hussain. Nitric Oxide Enhances Tumor Progression and Disease Aggressiveness in Pancreatic Cancer. NIH Summer Intern Poster Day. Bethesda, MD, 2014.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Lal, T.**, Kim, U, Boutros, CS, Chakraborty, NN, Doh, SJ, Towe, CW, Hoehn, RS. Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 on the Detection of Lung Cancer. Submitted to Annals of Surgical Oncology.
2. Shouhui Yang, Wei Tang, Azadeh Azizian, Jochen Gaedcke, Yuuki Ohara, Helen Cawley, Nader Hanna, Michael Ghadimi, **Trisha Lal**, Subrata Sen, Chad J Creighton, Jianjun Gao, Nagireddy Putluri, Stefan Ambs, Perwez Hussain, MIF/NR3C2 axis regulates glucose metabolism reprogramming in pancreatic cancer through MAPK-ERK and AP-1 pathways, *Carcinogenesis*, Volume 45, Issue 8, August 2024, Pages 582–594, <https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/bgae025>
3. Kakish, H., **Lal, T.**, Thuener, J. E., Bordeaux, J. S., Mangla, A., Rothermel, L. D., & Hoehn, R. S. (2024). Is sentinel lymph node biopsy needed for lentigo maligna melanoma?. *Journal of surgical oncology*, 129(4), 804–812.
4. **Trisha Lal**, Zu Xi Yu, Bin Guan, Chelsea Bender, Chi-Chao Chan, Catherine Cukras, Robert B. Hufnagel. Clinical and Histopathologic Correlates of Asymmetric Retinitis Pigmentosa. JAMA Ophthalmology, 2021.
5. Yang S, Tang W, Azizian A, Gaedcke J, Ströbel P, Wang L, Cawley H, Ohara Y, Valenzuela P, Zhang L, **Lal T**, Sinha S, Rupin E, Hanna N, Ghadimi BM, Hussain SP. Dysregulation of HNF1B/Clusterin axis enhances disease progression in a highly aggressive subset of pancreatic cancer patients. *Carcinogenesis*. 2022.

ABSTRACTS

1. **Trisha Lal**, Uriel Kim, Susan J. Doh, Natalie N. Chakraborty, Richard S. Hoehn, Christopher W. Towe. Lung Cancer Diagnosis During COVID-19: Trends, Disruptions, and Recovery. Submitted to Academic Surgical Congress, 2025.
2. **Trisha Lal**, Weichuan Dong, Natalie N. Chakraborty, Luke D. Rothermel, Richard S. Hoehn. Association between Social Determinants and Melanoma Stages: Insights from a National Dataset. Submitted to Academic Surgical Congress, 2025.
3. Susan J. Doh, **Trisha Lal**, Natalie N. Chakraborty, Uriel Kim, Richard S. Hoehn. Gaps and Gains in Breast Cancer Surveillance During Year 2 of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Submitted to Academic Surgical Congress, 2025.
4. Natalie N. Chakraborty, Omkar Pawar, **Trisha Lal**, Richard S. Hoehn, Luke D. Rothermel. Are Elderly Patients with Melanoma Readmitted More Often after Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy? Submitted to Academic Surgical Congress, 2025.
5. **Trisha Lal**, Richard Hoehn, Christina Boutros, Anand Kathardekar, Jordan M. Winter. Provider perspectives on non-medical barriers to GI cancer care at a regional cancer center. Submitted to American Society of Clinical Oncology GI Symposium, 2025.
6. **Trisha Lal**, Christina Boutros, Anand Kathardekar, Natalie N. Chakraborty, Luke D. Rothermel, Jordan M. Winter, Richard S. Hoehn. Provider perspectives on barriers to GI cancer care. Submitted to Society of Surgical Oncology, 2025.
7. Natalie N. Chakraborty, Maira A. Bhatti, Kevin G. Zablonski, Hailey Seibert, Adam Wade, Jarred M. Boone, **Trisha Lal**, Richard S. Hoehn, Iris Sheng, Luke D. Rothermel. Compliance with Nodal Basin Ultrasound Surveillance after Positive Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy. Submitted to Society of Surgical Oncology, 2025.
8. Weichuan Dong, **Trisha Lal**, Uriel Kim, Brock Montgomery, Hanna Kakish, Johnnie Rose, Siran Koroukian, Jeremy Bordeaux, Luke Rothermel, Richard Hoehn. Melanoma Screening May Not Lead to Improved Outcomes: A Cross-Sectional Study. Submitted to Society of Surgical Oncology, 2025.
9. Maira A. Bhatti, Natalie N. Chakraborty, Kevin Zablonski, Hailey Seibert, Adam Wade, Jarred Boone, **Trisha Lal**, Richard S. Hoehn, Iris Sheng, Luke D. Rothermel. The Impact of Age on Toxicity and Interruption of Immunotherapy for Stage III Melanoma. Submitted to Society of Surgical Oncology, 2025.
10. Hailey Seibert, Natalie N. Chakraborty, Maira A. Bhatti, Kevin G. Zablonski, Adam Wade, Jarred M. Boone, **Trisha Lal**, Richard S. Hoehn, Iris Sheng, Luke D. Rothermel. Obesity Associates with Poorer Recurrence-Free Survival Outcomes in Stage III Melanoma Patients Treated with Adjuvant Immunotherapy. Submitted to Society of Surgical Oncology, 2025.
11. Natalie N. Chakraborty, Maira Bhatti, Kevin Zablonski, Hailey Seibert, Adam Wade, Jarred Boone, **Trisha Lal**, Richard S. Hoehn, Luke D. Rothermel. Does Therapy Duration Matter for Stage III Melanoma Patients Receiving Adjuvant Immunotherapy? Submitted to Society of Surgical Oncology, 2025.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **Trisha Lal**. Taking History in Ophthalmology. Thread: Howard University College of Medicine Arts & Literature Magazine, 2019.
- **Trisha Lal**, Alexandra Cancio-Bello. Letter from the Editors. Howard University College of Medicine Research Digest, 2021.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- **Trisha Lal**. Community-level Disparities in Living Donor Kidney Transplantation. University of Michigan Department of Transplant Surgery: Monday Transplant Conference. Ann Arbor, MI. 2021.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

U.S. Surgeon General x Howard University Panel Discussion

2021

- Nominated to be one of two medical students representing Howard University College of Medicine in a discussion with the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, and Howard University President, Dr. Wayne Frederick, about COVID-19 and vaccine awareness in the community.

The Journey: Howard University Student Writers

2021

- Distinguished guest speaker on Howard University President, Dr. Wayne Frederick's podcast to discuss the Howard University College of Medicine Research Digest and the role of research in medical school.

McGill University's Virtual Launch of the Dr. Charles R. Drew Graduate Fellowships 2021

- Invited guest speaker for a panel discussion with Dr. Charlene Drew Davis, one of Dr. Charles R. Drew's daughters, centering around her career, her father's career and his legacy, the Black student experience, and the obligations that institutions of higher education to promote access to opportunities, especially for underrepresented group members and for those who may face systemic barriers.

HONORS/AWARDS

Association for Women Surgeons Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Conference Award	2021
University of Michigan Visiting Health Equity Scholarship Recipient	2021
University of Maryland Dean's List	2015-2017
Office of Multi-ethnic Student Education Academic Excellence Award	2017

LEADERSHIP

Journal Club Coordinator 2024

- Elected to coordinate and direct journal club meetings between 2024-2026 for the residency program

Program Education Committee, Class Representative 2023

- Nominated as one of two people to represent residency class during monthly meetings regarding education curriculum of Case Western Reserve General Surgery Residency program

Grand Rounds Committee, Member 2023

- Nominated to assist in coordinating Grand Rounds for the 2023-2024 academic year, which involves giving and delegating case presentations, organizing guest speakers, and moderating Grand Rounds series.

Howard University College of Medicine Research Digest, Co-Founder and President 2020-2022

- Established a student-run academic journal which strives to highlight the research done by faculty, physicians, and students at Howard University College of Medicine and Howard University Hospital.
- Led a team of 10 medical students in outreach, editing, and design. Coordinated with researchers throughout the medical school and hospital to feature their work.

University of Michigan Virtual Student Surgery Leadership Weekend, Attendee 2021

- Accepted to attend a virtual conference held by the University of Michigan in which we discussed innovation and personality in the context of academic surgery as well as the impact of Covid-19 on surgical education. Worked alongside a smaller group of medical students and physicians to brainstorm ideas on how to improve access to mentorship for future surgeons and presented our idea to the larger group.

Alternative Breaks, Volunteer and Experience Leader 2015-2017

- 2017 – Served as the chief coordinator for an Alternative Break experience to Washington, DC, facilitating peer learning of the issue of human trafficking. Planned and oversaw experience logistics, developing an educational curriculum for participants. Led four pre-trip meetings, a pre-trip service activity, the week-long service trip, and post-trip service activities throughout the year. Attended biweekly trainings.
- 2016 – Volunteered in a week-long service-learning experience about domestic violence in Knoxville, Tennessee. Worked with the local YWCA, toured various emergency shelters, observed a domestic violence docket at a local courthouse, and visited the area prison.
- 2015 – Volunteered in a week-long service-learning experience about individuals with disabilities and worked with several community partners in Indianapolis, Indiana. Examined historical and current barriers facing communities with disabilities.

Science Enrichment After School (SEAS), Vice President 2015-2016

- Tutored fifth grade students in science at Adelphi Elementary School in Maryland.
- Coordinated and created lesson plans for students based on the different sciences, ranging from biology to astronomy. Trained other volunteers to teach lesson plans created by me. Co-led monthly meetings.

HEALTH-RELATED SERVICE

AMBOSS, AMBOSSador	2020-Present
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- Serve as an ambassador for AMBOSS, a medical knowledge platform for doctors and students. Help organize and host webinars with the AMBOSS team once a year.

Howard University Hospital Community Vaccine Clinic, Volunteer	2021
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- Volunteered twice weekly for two months, guiding patients through the clinic and vaccinating individuals with a focus on the underserved population. Provided patient education regarding the vaccine.

International Medicine Interest Group, Volunteer	2019
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- Participated in a two-week long mission trip to India during which I visited rural villages near New Delhi daily and provided basic medical services like blood pressure readings to underserved patients.
- Learned how to manage both acute and chronic medical conditions with limited resources.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Undergraduate Learning Assistant	2015-2017
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- Oversaw a group of 16 students through the course each semester. Directed weekly active learning modules with the students centered around lessons like cellular respiration and DNA synthesis.

Principles of Microbiology, Teaching Assistant	2016
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- Guided students through laboratory techniques in microbiology, conducting demonstrations on lab procedures like gram staining, as well as creating an experiment of my own at the end.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Rockville Eye Physicians: Ophthalmic Technician	2017-2018
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Rockville, MD

- Screened patients for exams, measured vision, took history, and prepared instruments for procedures. Used high-tech computerized instruments to measure intraocular pressure and conduct visual field tests, retinal photography, ocular tomography, and auto-refraction.
- Performed administrative duties like managing reception, as well as coordinating insurance payments.

Baltimore Washington Medical Center: Emergency Medicine Scribe	2017
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Glen Burnie, MD

- Worked alongside ED physicians to document patient's history of present illness, review of systems, and physical exam findings into the chart. Maintained medical chart efficiency to increase ED patient flow.

Capital Coordinated Medicine: Medical Intern	2016
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Kensington, MD

- Provided medical products and services to elderly patients living in private homes, independent living facilities, assisted living facilities and group homes.
- Answered telephone calls, completed administrative tasks, and entered patient data into EMR. Collected, assessed, and triaged all patient-related requests to the clinical coordinator.

Children's National Medical Center: Volunteer Specialist	2014-2015
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Washington, DC

- Assisted in entering medical records of patients in an organized manner at the Healthy Generations clinic, a program that works with African American teenaged mothers and fathers in the DC metropolitan area.
- Shadowed physicians as they met with patients of the program and had interdisciplinary team meetings with other staff, notably social workers.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract	2024
Association for Academic Surgery	2024
Society of Surgical Oncology	2024

American College of Surgeons	2022-Present
Association for Women Surgeons	2021-Present
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)	2021-2022
American Medical Association (AMA)	2019-Present