

## Scholarship Winners Announced

### Anita Mantri, Ph.D., Memorial Travel Scholarship

Lydia Johnson Kolaparambil Varghese, M.D., currently serves as a physician and researcher in anaesthesiology, emergency medicine, and aerospace medicine at Mühlenkreiskliniken in Minden, Germany. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Perugia Medical School in Italy and completed clinical training and research placements across Germany and Italy. She has co-authored multiple peer-reviewed publications, contributed to the European Space Agency's Space Physician Training Course, and presented at major international conferences, including AsMA, ICAM, and ECAM. She has received several awards and fellowships acknowledging her interdisciplinary leadership and academic excellence and recently became an Associate Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association. She is an active member of the German Society of Aerospace Medicine (DGLRM) and ESAM, and contributes to several international collaborations in aerospace medicine. Her academic development was profoundly shaped by her late mentor and friend, Prof. Jochen Hinkelbein. His visionary spirit and unwavering dedication to the field continue to guide her.

### AsMA International Aerospace Medicine Scholarship

Lucas King, Lt., M.D., MBA, B.Kin., is currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. He earned a Business Certificate from Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, in 2013, and was awarded his Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 2019. The year before, he graduated with a Bachelor of Kinesiology from the University of Regina in Saskatchewan. In 2021, he earned his M.D. from the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine and is serving a Family Medicine Residency, Medical Officer Training Program, starting in 2023 which will extend to 2026, at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine. He works with the base medical team to support patients primarily from the local flight school, the first and only placement of its kind in Canada currently. He is a Resident Representative of the Canadian Society of Aerospace Medicine's Student and Resident Subgroup, Lead Resident at the Moose Jaw Family Medicine Residency Program at the University of Saskatchewan, and a member of the Aerospace Medicine Student and Resident Organization (AMSRO), where he is Co-Chair of the AMSRO Military Committee. His awards and scholarships include the CFMS-MD Financial Leadership Award, being chosen as a Drs. Peter and Stephanie Potoski Bursary Recipient, and the N. Murray Edwards MBA-MD Entrance Award.

### Stanley R. Mohler, M.D., Aerospace Medicine Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Sharon Ayenajei Abokie is a Nigeria-born, Sierra Leone-trained medical officer. She graduated in 2021 from the University of Sierra Leone's College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS). She pursued clinical practice and is currently a postgraduate student at the esteemed King's College London studying aerospace medicine. She was granted the honorable International Academy of Aviation and

Space Medicine (IAASM) scholarship in 2024. She provides guidance and inspiration to young medical professionals exploring new frontiers in medicine and is dedicated to bridging gaps in global healthcare and expanding opportunities for African medical professionals in aviation and space medicine. She remains committed to pushing the boundaries of medical science through opportunities, networking, and further training in aviation and space environments.

### Jeffrey R. Davis, M.D., Aerospace Medicine Endowed Scholarship

Cyril Mani is a medical student at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, with an Honors degree in Mechanical Engineering. He led the development of Eastern Canada's first permanent student rocket engine test facility while contributing to Canada's first commercial launch capacity. Since 2022, he has been part of the Space Medicine and Astronaut Health division at the Canadian Space Agency. His work supports the Connected Care Medical Modules initiative, which tests AI-driven medical tools in analog space environments. In parallel, he conducts aerospace medicine research, integrating machine learning models with biomonitoring devices for point-of-care diagnostics. He also leads a cerebrovascular hemodynamics study with McGill's Chemical Engineering Department. He is a member of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, McGill Institute for Aerospace Engineering, AMSRO, and AsMA. His previous awards include the full-ride Schulich Leader Scholarship at McGill, Ross McFarland Student Award, Joseph P. Dervay Undergraduate Scholarship, Stanley R. Mohler Scholarship, and Future/Succession Scholarships of the Order of Engineers of Quebec. He is currently working on M.D. and Master of Surgery degrees at McGill University.

### Philip J. Scarpa, Jr., M.D., Aerospace Medicine Endowed Scholarship

Catherine "Cath" Raisa Kimberly Pal-et Mandigma is a board-certified nutritionist-dietitian specializing in astronaut nutrition. Inspired by the International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA) award in 2018, she founded the Space4Pinays (Space4Women-Philippines) to motivate women and girls across the country to pursue space studies. In 2022, she was awarded the IAF Emerging Space Leader in Paris. She is also the recipient of the esteemed 2020 NDAP Foundation Preciosa Irma Florentin award for her work in space nutrition. She led a multinational team to the championship in the 2018 Y-ISEF in Japan and led the 2019 SG (ASEAN) in Thailand. She represented the Philippines in Athens, Greece (2017), Melbourne, Australia (FASTCO, 2017), and Bremen, Germany (IAC 2018). In 2017, she launched the *Choco Boru™* space food. She ventured into antioxidant research in her Nutrition MS at the University of the Philippines. In 2018 she was described in *JAXA Magazine* as a firm visionary in human spaceflight. Currently, she is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Commercial Spaceflight in the Aerospace Medical Association and presented their preliminary work in GI/Nutrition at ICAM 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal.

*[Please see the April newsletter for photos and complete bios.]*