



GIM News

Special Edition Newsletter

Celebrating Our DGIM Veterans

Veterans Day: November 11, 2020

Today we wanted to take a moment to highlight veterans within the Division of General Internal Medicine, as well as veterans who are family members of Division members. For Veterans Day we honor and recognize those who serve and have served our country.

Tara Cook, MD

Following her graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Tara served as a Signal Officer in the 24th and 3rd Infantry Divisions at Fort Stewart, Georgia. During this time, she was deployed to Kuwait for Operation Desert Thunder and to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina for Operation Stabilization Force.



She accepted an Air Force Health Professions

Scholarship for medical school and returned to active duty after completion of her neurology residency. While an Air Force neurologist and flight surgeon, her assignments included Chief of Neurology at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Staff Flight Surgeon, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of South Korea; and, Deputy Division Chief, Warfighter Interface Division, Air Force Research Lab, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Tara completed her Hospice and Palliative Medicine here at UPMC as well as her Masters in Medical Education, remaining as faculty.



Zach Hoydich

Zach enlisted in 2013 and was commissioned into the Chemical Corps. in 2016. He currently serves as the Executive Officer of the 1-110 Infantry Battalion's Headquarters Company. He is a Program Coordinator for the Center for Research on Health Care.

Joey Pizzuti

Joey served in the US Air Force as a Staff Sargent for Education Training Manager from 1996 to 2008. At Pitt, she is the Fellowship Coordinator for the ACES, HPM, and Addiction Medicine Medical Education Fellowships.



Alicia Topoll, MD

Alicia joined the Navy during medical school where she was a part of the Health Profession Scholarship Program. She served with the Marine Corps as a flight surgeon for Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 463 based out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. She deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She also served as the air combat element surgeon aboard the USS Essex during Rim of the Pacific exercise. Dr. Topoll is currently a Clinical Instructor of Medicine in the Section of Palliative Care.

Celebrating DGIM Family Member Veterans

Emily Dalton

Emily, daughter of Jennifer Dorazio, MBA, joined the Air Force in November 2019. She is in the 310th Aircraft maintenance unit where she is a crew chief for the F-16.



State of the Division

Save the Date: November 19, 2020.

