

MAKING AN IMPACT

# A MOTHER'S WISH FOUNDATION

**A Mother's Wish IBD Research Fund**, established in 2018, continues to provide support for IBD research at Penn Medicine. Each year, A Mother's Wish Foundation grants an award, which supports a Penn IBD researcher and helps to advance their work. Breakthroughs don't happen in a silo; they require collaboration between patients, clinicians, scientists and, importantly, philanthropic partners like you. Your support enables our team to continue to make tremendous strides for innovative and exciting research, which can lead to improved treatment and care for IBD patients. Thank you for your partnership!

## MEET OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS



### **Nicole Maloney Belle, MD, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Medicine, Penn Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Program  
2022 Award Recipient*

"Thanks to the *A Mother's Wish Award*, I continue to engage in research on preclinical models of IBD and have found a novel pathway through which molecules, naturally produced by epithelial cells, provide critical instruction to immune cells in the setting of colitis. In addition, I have been working to identify a molecular and microbiome signature that distinguishes IBD patients that attain and maintain remission. The goal is that we can identify patients that can have their IBD medication regimen de-escalated when they attain deep remission with low risk of flare."



### **Chung Sang Tse, MD**

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Penn Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Program  
2023 Award Recipient*

"I strive to be a leader in patient-oriented clinical effectiveness research to identify and implement the most appropriate and effective interventions for IBD management in real-world settings, with a focus on the non-inflammatory drivers of IBD disease burden. With support from A Mother's Wish, I continue to engage in patient-oriented research to identify and intervene on psychosocial factors, such as self-efficacy and health confidence, as non-inflammatory drivers of IBD-related disability in two clinical trials (CORE and ADEPT)."



### **Amanda PeBenito, MD, MEd**

*Third Year Gastroenterology Fellow  
2024 Award Recipient*

"I am so honored to receive this award. This support will allow me to advance my research, which is aimed to better understand why patients with IBD are so susceptible to gut pathogen *Clostridiodes difficile*s, and specifically which gut metabolites may be driving this process in the setting of chronic inflammation. My work also aims to develop superior testing methods for this condition and identify new strategies to prevent it."



Penn Medicine