



**Michael LaCroix**  
**MSTP- Class of 2024**

I grew up in Buffalo, Minnesota a small town on the outskirts of Minneapolis and attended the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, graduating with a B.S. in Neuroscience, with a minor in psychology. I began at UTSW's MSTP in 2016 and just started my MS4 year. I love to rock climb, play guitar, and spend time with my family, friends, and my two cats. As a peer advocate, I hope to give back to the UTSW community by being present for others through the trials of medical and graduate school, as well as balancing school responsibilities with life away from school.



**Cooper Mellema**  
**MD-PhD**  
**Class of 2024**

Hello, my name is Cooper Mellema, and I am a 8th year MD-PhD student (back to MS4, now). I am from the Pacific Northwest and went to the University of Washington for undergrad, majoring in Physics, Computational Neurobiology, and Biochemistry. My second time ever in Texas was when I moved here, which was definitely a bit of an adjustment! I hope to be able to offer helpful support and advice for students of all sorts during all phases of their training with the peer mentorship program. When in doubt, reach out! I am here to help



**Savannah Taylor**  
**MD-PhD**  
**Class of 2024**

My name is Savannah Taylor, and I am a 4th year medical student. Actually, this is technically my 8th year at UTSW because I am a MD-PhD student and I did my Ph.D. here too. That goes to say that I have gone through a lot of different experiences here-- both good and bad, in both the medical school and the graduate school, both personal and professional. I feel like that makes me a good person to talk to if you have something you want to get off your chest. We peer advocates are here for you! Hope to hear from you soon.