VWD Program 2020 Award Recipient

Karen Zimowski, MD, Assistant Professor
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta/Emory University
Mentor: Shannon Meeks, MD
Course: “Von Willebrand Disease – From Theory to Clinical Practice,” Malmö, Sweden

Dr. Karen Zimowski earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Clemson University in 2001, her doctorate of medicine from The Medical College of Georgia in 2009, and completed residency training in general pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University. She worked as a pediatric hospitalist/ER physician for three years before returning to academic medicine. Her interest in HT began during her Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellowship, during which exciting discoveries—including the results of the SIPPET trial and development of the factor VIII mimetic, emicizumab—were ground-breaking.

Her fellowship research explored the effects of a novel deletion in exon 13 of the F5 gene, highlighting the intricate regulatory processes responsible for maintaining the fine balance between hemostasis and thrombosis within the coagulation cascade. She now focuses her clinical time on pediatric patients with bleeding and thrombotic disorders. She evaluates patients with abnormal bleeding symptoms for inherited bleeding diatheses, including VWD in her own benign hematology clinic, manages patients diagnosed with VWD in the Comprehensive Bleeding Disorders Clinic, creates and implement perioperative bleeding plans for patients with VWD and other bleeding disorders, and guides the management of inpatients with VWD.