

UConn HEALTH

Health Professions

Aetna HPPI Pipeline

Partnership Initiative

December 2016



Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs

Read about the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative and Pipeline Programs at:

health.uconn.edu/hcop



Welcome from...

Marja Hurley, M.D.

Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery

Associate Dean of Health Career Opportunity Programs

Founding Director of Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine

This year has been another eventful and highly successful year for the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs and its Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Programs (Aetna HPPI). The department is an integral part of the School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine and Graduate educational community at UConn Health. The Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine are actively committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of diverse medical and dental students who are capable of providing culturally competent health care. Additionally, the Biomedical Science Graduate Program is also committed to supporting graduate students from diverse backgrounds who will discover the medical cures of tomorrow. The department continues to support currently enrolled medical, dental and graduate students of diverse backgrounds and has expanded its programs for middle school, high school and college students to realize their dreams of becoming health professionals. The Aetna HPPI programs and activities are designed, coordinated and implemented through this department. They have proven to be top-notch because the participants in the programs have successfully completed their undergraduate degrees and have actualized their goals of entering medical, dental or graduate school. It is for this reason that the programs and activities sponsored through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs are recognized as a national model. To date, we have accomplished our goals and continue to develop new programs and fine-tune existing ones. We had 253 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2016 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the 2016-2017 academic year, we anticipate approximately 840 students participating in our after-school, partner high school, Aetna HPPI Saturday Academy and college programs. I am gratified that the community recognizes the importance of these programs

in promoting diversity in the health professions and am delighted that Hartford mayor, Luke A. Bronin served as our keynote speaker at the 2015-2016 academic year closing and recognition ceremony. Dr. Gary Rhule, director of health at the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services served as our keynote speaker and Dr. Duarte Goncalves Machado, co-director, Hartford Healthcare Neuroscience Institute and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2005 alum, served as our medical alumni speaker at the closing ceremonies of our 2016 summer programs. This year, all graduating seniors participating in the high school Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy were accepted into college. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work. I also offer special congratulations to the Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars in the School of Medicine (SOM) and School of Dental Medicine (SODM) graduating class of 2016. In the SOM, 16% of the graduating class are Health Career Opportunity Programs' scholars, while 20% of the graduating class in the SODM are Health Career Opportunity Programs' scholars. We are also proud that 59% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SOM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students, and 60% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SODM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students. I thank our faculty, staff, and students at UConn Health and partner institutions for their dedication and support. Also special thanks to our funders including the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education, who provided Aetna HPPI with ConnCAP funds, and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Endowment Fund that support some of our existing programmatic initiatives. Additionally, I would like to thank the Aetna Foundation for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Health Equity award which funds supported the 2016 Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program.



A note from...

Granville Wrensford, Ph.D.

*Assistant Dean and Associate Director
Health Career Opportunity Programs
UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine*

This year has been another exciting year with the vast array of programs and activities that the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs sponsors. Interest among students, parents and educators alike continue to increase. We have visited many middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities throughout the state of Connecticut. We have also visited colleges in Rhode Island, Alabama, and Georgia.

This past year, we continued our collaboration with the West Middle School's participation in the Great Explorations Program. This was facilitated by a grant from The Hartford. We also participated in their annual back-to-school event sponsored by the local Boys and Girls Club. Later in the year, a group of forty of the school's students visited UConn Health where they received information on careers in medicine and participated in hands on activities.

We continue to provide access and exposure to health careers and health professionals by hosting visits to UConn Health facilities and encouraging greater participation from the schools in Connecticut. This year, as in previous years, we had a number of students from various high schools who participated in the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program and our annual Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference. We also sponsored and accompanied high school and college students to participate in the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference which was held at Harvard Medical School. This conference provided additional exposure to biomedical science careers and mentors for our students.

We interacted with numerous students during recruitment and informational sessions. It pleases me to see such a large number of students excited about the health sciences and careers in the health professions. I am grateful to the many individuals who have contributed to the success of the programs.

The success of our programs can be seen at various stages of the pipeline. At the middle and high school levels, we have seen a high persistence rate from one grade to the next. The graduating high school seniors have consistently performed at a higher level on the SAT compared to other students in the Hartford school district. Each year all of the graduating seniors have been accepted and matriculated in college. In addition, each year, two or three of these graduating seniors have been selected as scholars in the Rowe Scholars Program at UConn, Storrs.

As we prepare for another year, I must acknowledge the parents, guardians and students of the programs for their firm commitment. A special thank you to the department's staff, faculty and other professionals here at UConn Health and the larger community who have volunteered their time to mentor and interact with the participants in our programs. I would also like to acknowledge the strong support of Dr. Michael Menard and his staff at the UConn Greater Hartford campus and Kevin McLaughlin at the UConn Storrs campus.



Greetings from...

Kerry-Ann Stewart, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care
Assistant Director of Health Career Opportunity Programs
UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine*

It has been a pleasure serving as Assistant Director for the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. I know firsthand how the department has supported students over the last 30 years in achieving their goals of becoming physicians, dentists, or biomedical science researchers. The community that the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs has built is one that will continue to assist students from diverse backgrounds pave the way towards bright futures. As a past participant of the High School Student Research Apprentice Program and the Summer Research Fellowship Program, these opportunities inspired me to pursue graduate studies in biomedical science. It is quite evident that the magnitude of the research presented by the participants of the High School Student Research Apprentice Program, and the college participants of the Summer Research Fellowship Program and the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program have been phenomenal.

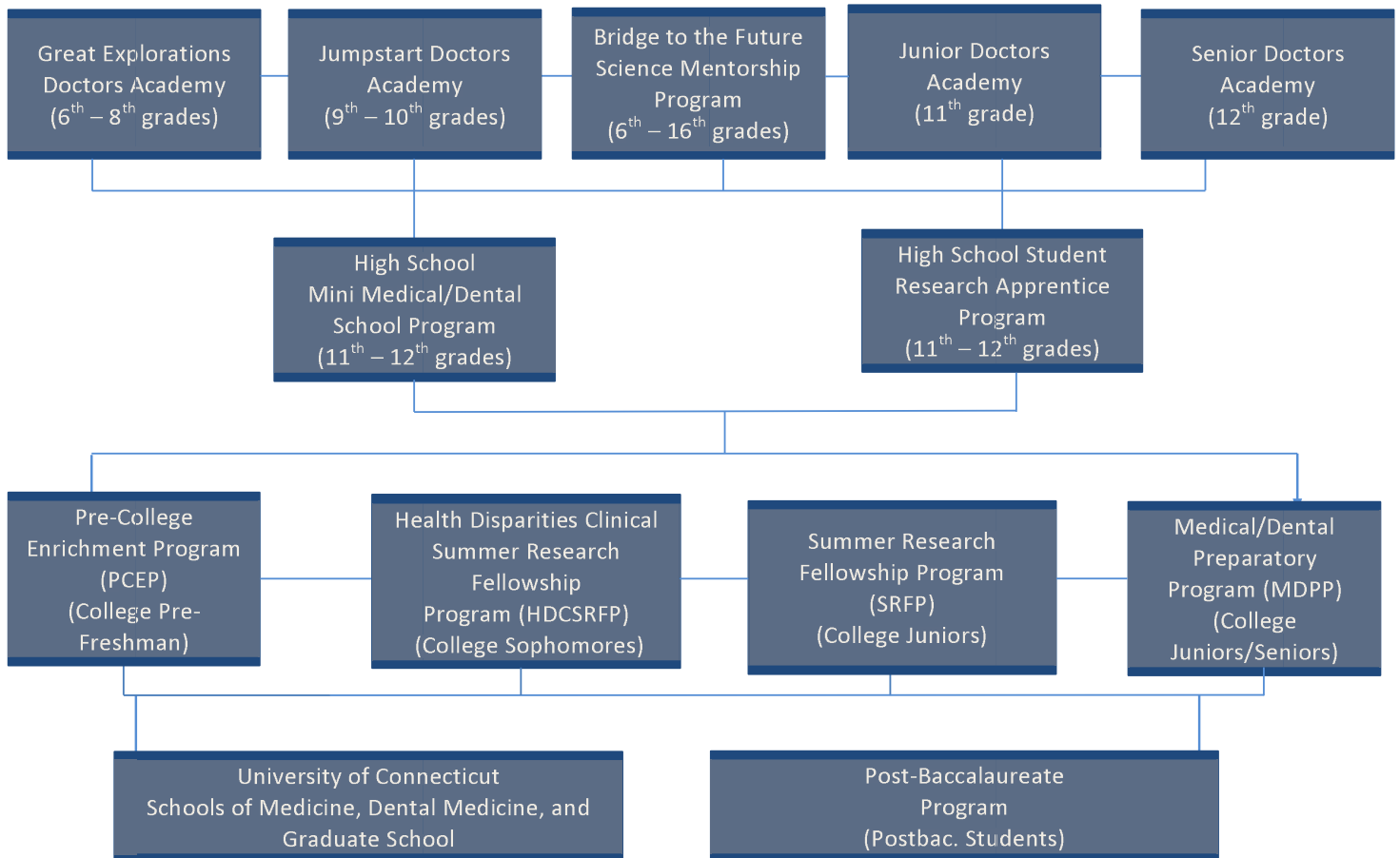
It has been gratifying to witness the growth and development of participants of the middle school, high school, and college programs as they transition to the next level in their academic careers. We are happy to have the opportunity to expose the participants of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy to new areas of the biological sciences including virtual anatomy through the anatomage table. It has been extremely rewarding to see all of the graduates of the Aetna HPPI Senior Doctors Academy go on to matriculate at distinguished colleges and universities, including UConn. Additionally, the participants of the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program were also introduced to new research taking place at UConn Health and the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine.

This academic year, we have continued to strengthen the pipeline by expanding our mentorship of undergraduate

students at the UConn Storrs and Greater Hartford campuses. We have also continued to work closely with the UConn Chapter of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars at the Storrs campus and the Premedical Society at the UConn Greater Hartford campus. The department's continued presence at local universities, as well as regional and national conferences has been instrumental in recruiting the best and brightest talents to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine here at UConn. I am also proud of the college Aetna HPPI pipeline participants who have been accepted to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. The Medical/Dental Preparatory Program continues to allow undergraduate students to make greater strides as they prepare for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Dental Admission Test (DAT) or as they prepare for the new first year M Delta curriculum as matriculating students to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.

This year has been very enriching and I am excited about the future of our middle school, high school, college, professional school, and graduate students. I thank the UConn Health community for their continued support of the Aetna HPPI pipeline participants. A special thanks goes to Dr. Stacey Brown, Dr. Yvonne Grimm-Jorgensen, Dr. Kathy Martin and Kevin McLaughlin for their continued support of the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2, and the Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program at Central Connecticut State University and at UConn, Storrs, respectively. We are also very grateful to the medical, dental, and graduate students who have graciously given of their time to mentor middle school, high school, and college students in areas of professional development and preparation for college or health profession schools.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pipeline



Congratulations to...

Trisha Maloney, D.M.D.

Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor



Dr. Trisha Maloney graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2016.

Dr. Trisha Maloney began her journey in Kingston, Jamaica where she lived for nineteen years. This is where her interest in dentistry began. At the age of 15, her local orthodontist invited students to work with their practice during the summer. This would be her first exposure to dentistry and it sparked a deep interest in this profession.

After high school, she enrolled as an undergraduate student at Florida International University in Miami. She met with her college advisor right away to discuss her interests and what path to follow. This helped her take the right classes and programs to apply to dental school. She excelled in the sciences and graduated in 2011 with a bachelor of science degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. She was accepted into UConn's School of Dental Medicine at age 24 and gravitated towards pediatrics.

Dr. Maloney became involved in the Health Career Opportunity Programs through mentoring activities as a panelist at the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference and by participating in the Dental Impressions Workshop, as well as participating in the BMS Program. She expressed that her most memorable moment was when she did research. She was able to pick any area to research and her mentors and preceptors encouraged her to present her research. This allowed her to gain exposure.

After being accepted into her first choice of dental residency, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she is currently completing her pediatric dental residency at Howard University. Dr. Maloney is most passionate about helping underserved populations especially youth in the community. Despite her heavy course load, she still manages to give back in the community through volunteering. She enjoys being a mentor and encourages others to obtain a career in dentistry.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. Maloney responded, "Dr. Hurley, I admire her involvement in recruiting underrepresented minorities and how she is the first black woman to graduate from the UConn School of Medicine. It is inspiring to see how far she has come. Dr. Arteaga, a day to day advisor helps me through, gives us support and encourages us. Dr. Albert is a mentor who is very encouraging and takes learning to the next level. He is a well-rounded professor."

Dr. Maloney would like to thank and express gratitude to the following people: "My teachers, preceptors, and especially my parents and family for their encouragement and motivation, and for also helping me overcome obstacles and pushing through everything."

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in health professions: "Don't be afraid of the process of going to dental school; students see it as intimidating and they feel they are at a disadvantage of not knowing and it is important to find a mentor and be involved in programs like "HCOP" to guide you." Also "we need a lot more minorities in the health professions and it is important to have a range of ethnicity and diversity for patients to feel understood. It is important to surround yourself with the right people."

Congratulations to...

John Zyzo, D.M.D.

Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor



Dr. John Zyzo, graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2016.

In 2008, Dr. Zyzo, graduated from Pomperaug High School in Southbury, CT. He then enrolled at UConn where he received a bachelor of science degree in molecular and cell biology with a minor in business in May 2012. He then

enrolled in the UConn School of Dental Medicine during the fall of 2012.

Dr. Zyzo explained that up until starting college he wanted to go to medical school and become a physician, but he says, “it turned out the hospital setting wasn’t for me and I looked for other venues in health care that fit my personality.” He then did some research online and dentistry came up. He then thought about the great relationship and experiences he had at his family dentist. That is when it became clear to Dr. Zyzo that he wanted to pursue dentistry.

Dr. Zyzo became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs through the Pre-College Enrichment Program during the summer before his freshman year of college. He says, “I was a little hesitant of sacrificing my last summer before college, but this program was an amazing experience and I was fortunate for the opportunity.” He describes being a part of the HCOP programs as one of his best experiences because he found value in all of them, but specifically the relationships he was able to make throughout the programs. Dr. Zyzo says, “many of the people I’ve met through HCOP have become great mentors and even better friends.”

Dr. Zyzo is currently completing his general practice residency at Danbury Hospital. His future plans include working in private practice in the Connecticut or New York area working with diverse groups of patients. He says that he is not closing the door to specializing, but

at the moment he enjoys doing general dentistry because of the flexibility of being able to do multiple procedures.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Zyzo responded, “HCOP is a big part of my enrichment throughout. I thank Dr. Hurley for giving me the opportunity. Dr. Arteaga who was a great mentor and helped me do research and Jan who was the first person I remember meeting. When you think of HCOP, you think of Jan. She was very supportive and always helped me when needed throughout the years.”

Dr. Zyzo would like to thank and express his gratitude to the following people: “My teachers and preceptors who have helped me develop as a clinician and dental health provider. My family who made it easier through this stressful time, I couldn’t thank them enough, especially, my parents for their love and support throughout the years; they are equally responsible for my success.” Dr. Zyzo expressed that “not everyone has family support so you shouldn’t take it for granted.”

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “Follow your passion; we all have roles that we can fill in the field of health care and I don’t think any form of doubt should stop you.”

Congratulations to...

Matthew Anderson, M.D.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor



Dr. Matthew Anderson graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2016.

In 2007, Dr. Anderson graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit College Preparatory School in Indianapolis, Indiana. After graduation, he attended Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where he received a bachelor of science degree in biology in May 2011. He enrolled in the UConn School of Medicine during the fall of 2011.

Dr. Anderson became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) upon applying to the UConn School of Medicine when he became an HCOP scholar, as well as having the opportunity his first two years of medical school to be the president of the UConn School of Medicine Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

Dr. Anderson explained that during his first year he and his team started a mentoring activity that they would implement every month with the students who were a part of the Saturday Academy. They would do mentoring activities with the students and host events, which he felt had a big impact on him his first year and happens to be his best HCOP experience. His interest in medicine struck when he would attend church where there was a family doctor who took him under his wing. He was also interested in science in high school and always wanted to help people. He felt medicine was a combination of being able to do both.

Dr. Anderson is currently completing his Neurological Surgery Residency at Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. Anderson plans to specialize in pediatric neurosurgery and his area of interest is in neurotrauma with a focus on research. His future plans are to be the head of the Pediatric Neurosurgery department, doing prevention of neurotrauma. He is open to working with a wide range of patients, looking to work with all populations. Once in practice he plans to eventually work with young black

males to whatever capacity and focus on the increasing the number of young black males in the field of medicine.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Anderson responded, “Dr. Sampson who was my first mentor. He helped me understand the importance of medicine and how to study for exams. Dr. Hurley who has been so supportive in the things I have done in my career and a good person to bounce my ideas off of. Dr. Laurencin who gave me a spot in his lab when I took a year to do research. He helped me with conducting research and that is what made me want to include research in my career. Lastly, Dr. Jonathan Martin, a neurosurgeon at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center who is instrumental and a positive motivator who got me into the field of neurosurgery and built my excitement for the medical field.

Dr. Anderson would like to thank and express gratitude to the following people: “My parents who taught me the importance of hard work and humanity. They are my biggest supporters. My sister who is my biggest fan and always rooting for me. My best friend because she has always been there for me. Also I thank God for giving me the opportunity to go to medical school and live out my dream.”

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “We always have to give back because the only way we can increase the numbers of us is if we go back into the community and show we can do this and that we have done it.” He also mentioned “not to forget to increase the number of medical students in the community even if we are too busy.”

Congratulations to...

Adrian Pacheco, M.D.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor



Dr. Adrian Pacheco, graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2016.

Dr. Pacheco was born in New York and moved to Connecticut just before entering middle school. He enrolled at his local community college at Two Rivers then transferred to Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). In 2008, he earned his bachelor of science degree in biomolecular sciences. Furthering his education, he went on to receive his Master of Arts in Biomolecular Sciences in 2015.

His path to medicine began in the Navy. With a brother applying to medical school at the time, he began to research and explore this career path for himself. In 2010, he enrolled in UConn's School of Medicine. Through many different clinical rotations, he discovered his passion lied in emergency medicine. This is where he hopes to specialize upon graduation.

Dr. Pacheco has been involved in HCOP during his years as a medical student. During HCOP's Bridge Conference, he sat in as a panelist discussing his background and giving advice to interested high school students. This experience prompted him to get more involved in the department. He became an avid volunteer through CCSU's collaborative partnership with HCOP. In addition, he dedicated his Saturdays during the academic year to mentoring the HCOP Academy students.

Dr. Pacheco's most memorable HCOP experience was the summer he tutored for the MCAT preparatory program. "This opportunity felt good because I was able to help students see the real view of becoming a doctor, what is really important (from a student perspective) and that they can achieve this dream." He enjoyed this experience so much that he went on to tutoring the following summer.

Dr. Pacheco is currently completing his Emergency Medicine Residency at Morristown Memorial Hospital. His future plans include working in more urban environments that are traditionally underserved. He pointed out that "you cannot forget where you came from." He is also considering going back to the Navy in a health care position after residency.

When asked what words of advice and encouragement he would like to leave the younger generation of minority students interested in the health professions, he said to "not lose faith in yourself." At times, he would ask himself "why not me?" Then he realized that there are so many opportunities available that one needs to take advantage of. "The answer is that it CAN be you."

Adrian had a lot of support throughout his path of becoming an M.D. The most influential people that helped make this dream a reality was his family, including his brother and fiancé who pushed him "to do good things." Dr. Marja Hurley, the associate dean of HCOP was also a big part of his success as a medical student. He also mentioned the support and guidance of Dr. Henderson who "is a great guy that helped him out." In addition, he expresses his gratitude to all of his preceptors, mentors, undergrad professors, and personnel in the Navy who motivated him.

Congratulations to Our Mentors and Past Program Participants - UConn Health Medical, Dental and Graduate School 2016 Graduates

Amaka Amakwe, D.M.D.

Matthew Anderson, M.D.

Yetunde Asiedu, M.D.

John Bellias, D.M.D.

Diana Chen, M.D.

Avi Doan, M.D.

Olayinka Edwards, M.D.

Mohamed Elfatihi, M.D.

Eric James, Ph.D.

Bilal Khan, M.D.

Alexis Lighten, M.D.

Trisha Maloney, D.M.D.

Melissa Mondesir, D.M.D.

Maritza Montanez, M.D.

Brianna Munoz, D.M.D.

David Oveisi, M.D.

Adrian Pacheco, M.D.

Vanessa Piccuillo Scanlon, Ph.D.

Lisa St. Bernard, D.M.D.

Vanessa Wanjeri, M.D.

Brian Won Wong, M.D.

John Zyzo, D.M.D.

Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) Medical/Dental Student 2016 Bridge Mentoring Award



Matthew Anderson, M.D.



Trisha Maloney, D.M.D.



Adrian Pacheco, M.D.



John Zyzo, D.M.D.

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs recognized two dental students and two medical students for their continued participation and involvement with the Aetna HPPI Programs with the Bridge Mentoring Award. The 2016 recipients were: Matthew Anderson, M.D., Neurological Surgery Residency, Rhode Island Hospital, Brown University, Providence, RI; Trisha Maloney, D.M.D., Pediatric Dental Residency, Howard University, Washington, DC; Adrian Pacheco, M.D., Emergency Medicine Residency, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morristown, NJ; John Zyzo, D.M.D., General Practice Residency, Danbury Hospital, Danbury CT.

John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship Recipients

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs provides John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships in the form of book awards to Senior Doctors Academy students from the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy who will enroll as freshmen at UConn. John D. Rowe, M.D. and Valerie A. Rowe, Ph.D. are longtime donors to UConn, supporting students and institutional advancement. The Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Endowment has helped hundreds of students from underrepresented populations succeed in UConn's undergraduate, medical, and graduate programs through scholarships, academic, and experiential opportunities. Dr. John Rowe is a professor of health policy and management at Columbia University and former chairman and CEO of Aetna, Inc. He previously served on the UConn Board of Trustees and the UConn Health Board of Directors. Dr. Rowe was awarded the Carole and Ray Neag Medal of Honor for his remarkable contributions to medicine and UConn Health in 2012. Dr. Valerie Rowe is a retired clinical associate professor at the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University. "Jack and Valerie Rowe understand that the gift of education transforms lives. We

are immensely grateful for their investment in the prestigious Rowe Scholar program, which has assisted dozens of talented students from underrepresented backgrounds succeed at UConn," said Joshua R. Newton, president and CEO of the UConn Foundation.

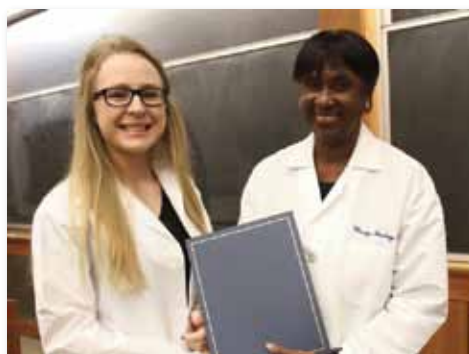


Drs. John and Valerie Rowe

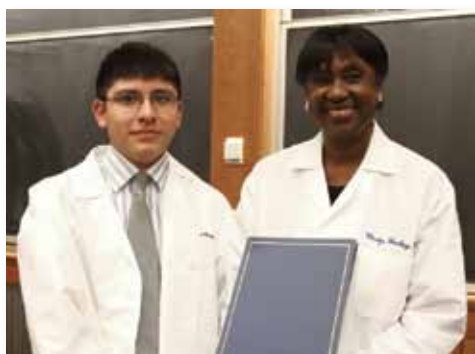
The 2016 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships were awarded to Michael Celadita, Cameron Hand, Tanya Miller and Alexander Naoum. The scholarships were awarded to each recipient by Dr. Marja Hurley, professor of medicine and orthopaedic surgery, associate dean for Health Career Opportunity Programs, and founding director of Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative. Cameron Hand, Tanya Miller and Alexander Naoum have been accepted into the UConn Honors Program as Rowe Health Professions Scholars.



Dr. Maria Hurley and Mayor Luke Bronin with two Rowe Honors Scholars, Tanya Miller and Alexander Naoum.



Scholarship Recipient and Rowe Honors Scholar: Tanya Miller



Scholarship Recipient: Michael Celadita

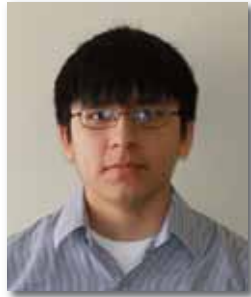


Scholarship Recipient and Rowe Honors Scholar: Alexander Naoum

Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy Graduating Class of 2016!



Ken Arroyo
Palm Beach State College



Michael Celadita
University of Connecticut



Kendall Crowe
University of Hartford



Karl Gabbidon
University of Connecticut



Shambrelle Hamm
University of Connecticut



Cameron Hand
University of Connecticut

HCOP **H**ard Work
 Career-Focused
 Optimal Performance
 Persistence



Tanya Miller
University of Connecticut



Alexander Naoum
University of Connecticut



Quaniqua Polk
Winston Salem State University



Nia Ramson
University of Connecticut



Imani Richardson
Capital Community College



Jafet Rivera
University of Saint Joseph



Brandy Robinson
University of Connecticut



Tamara Rodriguez
University of Saint Joseph



Aliyah Stanford
University of Connecticut



Tashieka Telfer
University of Connecticut

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy and Great Explorations Students Academic Enrichment Experiences

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (Aetna HPPI) Doctors Academy students (The Jumpstart 9 and 10, Junior and Senior Doctors Academies) took enrichment trips to Mystic Aquarium, the Institute of Living, Life Star, the Hartford Stage, and the UConn Storrs campus. The Great Explorations students also visited the UConn Health campus and the Connecticut Science Center.



Great Explorations Doctors Academy

The Great Explorations Program is an enrichment program designed to provide extracurricular activities in math, science, and language arts to 7th and 8th grade middle school students. A total of 259 students who participated in the Great Explorations Program in 2015-2016 were enrolled in one of eight middle schools: 1) Jumokey at Hartford Conservatory, 2) Jumokey SMART Academy, 3) Kennelly, 4) CREC-Medical Professions Academy, 5) Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, 6) West Middle School, 7) Betances STEM, and 8) Two Rivers Magnet Middle School. Great Explorations also

offers a six-week summer academic enrichment program for rising 8th grade participants and a 30-week Saturday Academy for 8th graders. The summer activities are conducted at the Learning Corridor in Hartford and the Saturday Academy is held at the UConn Greater Hartford Campus. During the summer of 2016 there were a total of 27 students participating in the summer component. A total of 21 students participated in the 30 week academic year component of the program. This included 20 of those who participated in the summer.



Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy (Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy) is designed to provide educational opportunities which may not be available to a number of Connecticut high school students. The Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy consists of the Jumpstart 9 and 10 programs and the Junior and Senior Doctors Academies. The purpose of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy high school program is to provide access and preparation to students interested in health professions who come from backgrounds where they are the first in their family to earn a four-year college degree, come from modest family means, and/or are from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in health care. Students participating in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy are generally recruited from the Hartford area schools and strive to become physicians, dentists, biomedical research scientists, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals.

The Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy has two major components, the summer program and the academic year program. Both components are offered at the UConn Greater Hartford campus. The summer and

academic year programs are designed to advance students' academic skill levels in math, science and English. The programs promote personal growth through extracurricular experiences designed to help students develop the skills necessary to succeed on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and the American College Test (ACT). A total of 104 students participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy during the 2015-2016 academic year.



High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series

(Excerpt of article written by Lauren Woods – UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine)

UConn Health has graduated 66 Connecticut high school students from its 2016 Mini Medical/Dental Program of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.

The program, with 22 high schools participating this year from across the state, was created more than 15 years ago and is sponsored by the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative.

“This eight-week program provides an opportunity for high school students to learn through expert lectures and demonstrations more about careers in medicine, dental

medicine, biological sciences and various allied health careers,” said Dr. Marja Hurley, founding director of the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative and associate dean of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health. “Students are hand-picked for the program by their guidance counselors or science teachers.”

On March 31 at the program's closing ceremony, Dr. Monty MacNeil, dean of UConn School of Dental Medicine, spoke to the students about the importance of careers in health care. “Health care represents the fastest growing industry in the United States. We need you in



Dr. Marja Hurley with high school students who graduated from the 2016 Mini Medical/Dental Program at UConn Health: Giovanni Jones, 17, of Hartford and Kiera Flynn, 16, of East Hartford who both attend Global Communication Academy; and Wesia Malik, 16, from Newington attends CREC - Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy

the health professions, whether that be in medical, dentistry, nursing or any of the many other fields of patient care,” said MacNeil. “UConn Health is a great place to get a better sense for these professions and how they interact and work together.”

The keynote speaker of the closing ceremony was Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, CEO and executive vice president for health affairs at UConn Health. “There is a great deal of exciting growth happening here on [the] UConn Health campus with our new Outpatient Pavilion, the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, and our new hospital tower set to open at UConn John Dempsey Hospital on May 1. Also, for those of you who like research, we have newly renovated laboratories for you.”

Agwunobi stressed: “But remember, while buildings are important, what is most critical is you – the next generation of physicians and scientists. I am most excited about you.”

“This program offers opportunities for some of our brightest students to learn about the incredible opportunities available in the health professions as physicians, dentists or biomedical researchers,” said Hurley, “I feel very proud of this year’s Mini Medical/Dental Program students and those that have come before them. The program has helped quite a lot of students proactively pursue medical and dental school education and also

practice as successful doctors in these fields.”

Giovanni Jones, 17, of Hartford attends Global Communication Academy. “The program was very informative. It opened my mind to more choices in the medical field and the program was very hands on. I now want to be a dentist.”

Wesia Malik, 16, of Newington, attends CREC - Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy in Hartford. “The program was really interesting and beneficial. Since taking AP Biology, the program helped to further reiterate what I have learned. It also was cool to learn from professors what you would be learning about in medical school. After the program I realized I want to pursue a career in OB/GYN because it’s one of the most rewarding careers. I feel I could get the most out of it and doing something that helps the most people.”

Kiera Flynn, 16, of East Hartford attends Global Communication Academy. “I want to go to medical school to be either an anesthesiologist or an OB/GYN, or even study oncology to find a cure for cancer.”

Flynn’s mother Keron couldn’t be prouder of her daughter and her career goals. “She has always wanted to be a doctor, especially ever since her grandfather died of cancer. She wants to find a cure for cancer.”

She added: “I love this program.”



Giovanni Jones, 17, of Hartford now wants to be a dentist



Wesia Malik, 16, of Newington now wants to be an OB/GYN

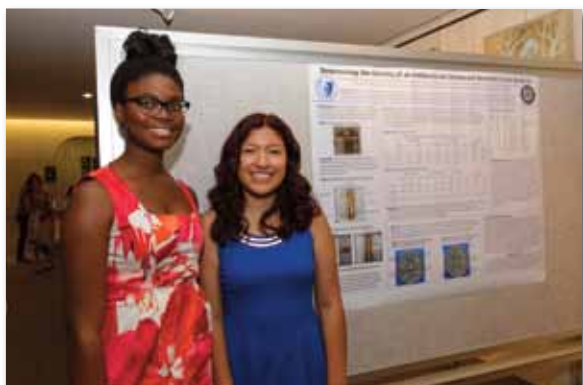


Kiera Flynn, 16, of East Hartford wants to find a cure for cancer

For more information on the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program visit: health.uconn.edu/hcop/enrichment-programs/high-school-mini-medicaldental-school-program/ or contact Anastasia Rollins at 860-679-3484 or rollins@uchc.edu.

High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program

Sixteen students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2016 High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program. As part of the 2016 program, seven students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State University and nine students commuted daily to the UConn Health campus for their research projects. At the end of the summer, each student gave oral and poster presentations of their research results during a special research symposium.



Epidemiology

The Epidemiology Program, a series of five classes, is held for students from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) to introduce basic concepts and terminology used in the study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wetstone, associate professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health and Dr. Richard Stevens, professor,

Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health, the program provides an introduction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Eleven 11th and 12th graders attended sessions at UConn Health on four occasions and Drs. Wetstone and Stevens visited SMSA on one occasion.

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, UConn Health, and Central Connecticut State University College Science Partnership

Seventy 9th and 10th grade students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy participated in the 2015-2016 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin, chair of the Department of Biomolecular Sciences at Central Connecticut State University, students participated in five biology and chemistry labs at Central Connecticut State University. The lab enrichment provided by the program

helped the students in scientific techniques. The students who participated in the College Science Partnership Series exhibited higher level scientific skills than those who did not. Additionally, on November 19, 2015, the students participated in a day of enrichment with faculty members at UConn Health focusing on areas of cardiology and dermatology. During the day, students also received a virtual anatomy presentation to strengthen their knowledge of the human body.

Teens as Teachers

The UConn School of Medicine, Principles of Clinical Medicine course (PCM) is the clinical training component for medical students. The course helps students prepare for the clinical aspects of medicine by training them in history taking, physical examination, utilization of community resources and community collaboration for improved patient care. Part of the course involves training on adolescent health. Medical students learn about the importance and specialized aspects of the adolescent history, and practice their skills with real teens recruited from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) and CREC - Medical Professions

and Teacher Preparation Academy (MPTPA), who act as patient instructors. The medical students then receive feedback on their performance from the adolescent patient instructors. Seven students from SMSA and four students from MPTPA participated in the program last year. Under the leadership of Dr. Stacey Brown, director of community based education in the UConn School of Medicine and assistant professor of Community Medicine and Health Care, the participating adolescents are given health education workshops and training prior to their participation in the PCM course.



Pre-College Enrichment Program

The Pre-College Enrichment Program is a residential enrichment program primarily for incoming students at UConn and other four year institutions. Designed to provide solid development of scientific, mathematical, communications, problem solving, and test-taking skills, it is intended to enhance the college preparedness of college freshmen. It allows the students to experience life on a college campus at UConn, Storrs or Central Connecticut State University prior to their matriculation to college in the fall. Students can participate in either the academic track (completion of academic courses (UConn, Storrs or Central Connecticut State University)) or a research track (completion of a research project (UConn, Storrs)). This past summer, 13 students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the UConn School of Engineering Bridge Program at Storrs and 8 students participated in an

academic track at Central Connecticut State University. All Pre-College Enrichment Program participants along with 14 Bridge Program participants also engaged in numerous enrichment activities at UConn Health including the Clinical Skills Lab.



The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a seven-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores, juniors, seniors and recent graduates. In the summer of 2016, 12 students participated in the program. The program is designed to provide the following: clinical research and enrichment experiences, an introduction to health disparities across cultures, principles of clinical medicine, public health research and interventions, an overview of cultural definitions, public health issues, and discussions of specific techniques for working with di-

verse populations in community settings. All of the participants completed a clinical research project and presented a poster with their results at the end of the program.

The community partners who participated in the 2016 program were:

- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford
- The Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity (Saint Francis)
- Hartford Department of Health and Human Services
- Health Equity Solutions (HES)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut
- North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc.
- Oak Hill Center

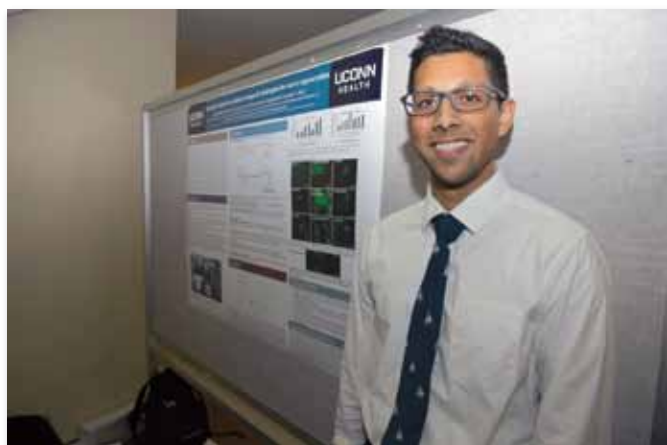
The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is made possible by the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Health Equity award.



Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a 9-week research enrichment experience designed for college sophomores, juniors, seniors, and recent graduates who are interested in a career in medicine, dental medicine or biomedical research and for applicants who have completed some college coursework in biology and chemistry (preferably through organic chemistry). In the summer of 2016, a total of 11 students participated in the program. A faculty sponsor is identified for each student. Faculty develops and

makes available suitable project descriptions. The student contacts his/her faculty sponsor in April or May and develops a research protocol. Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) students are encouraged to apply. Students devote approximately 30 hours per week on a research project and 10 hours per week to clinical experiences. At the end of the summer, each student gives a poster presentation of their research results during a special research symposium.



Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program students are selected from various universities throughout the United States to work on academic skills to prepare for medical school or dental school admission. Participants of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1 prepare for either the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or the Dental Admission Test (DAT) while the participants of the Medical/Dental Prepara-

tory Program Track 2 take courses in the basic medical sciences to prepare them for the first year curriculum of medical and dental school. A total of 47 college students and recent college graduates participated in academic classes, guest lectures, test taking strategies, and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health campus during the six-week summer 2016 program.



Parental Seminar Series

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative's Parental Seminar Series is an opportunity for students and parents to learn more about important health issues affecting their community. Parents are asked to submit a survey on the topics they are most interested in learning about and the series of lectures are then tailored to their needs. The 2015-2016 Parental Seminar Series included a college admissions panel which included Caroline McCall, admissions officer for UConn, Greater Hartford campus; Carlos Soler, assistant director for the Office of Recruitment and Admissions at Central Connecticut State Univer-

sity, and Kora Shin, senior assistant dean of admission, Wesleyan University. They discussed college financial aid and the admissions process. Connell Boyle, regional director, Kaplan K-12 and College Prep, provided information on the PSAT, SAT, and ACT academic exams. The Parental Seminar Series also included presentations on nutrition and healthy eating by Luriza Glynn, education and development specialist, Diabetes Education, UConn Health, and on asthma by Dr. Kenia Mansilla-Rivera, director of medical student education and assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine, UConn and Saint Francis Hospital.



Luriza Glynn presenting on nutrition and healthy eating



Connell Boyle presenting on standardized test preparation

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

The 2016 Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, with approximately 220 high school and college students participating. The students were brought together with UConn Health faculty, staff, medical, dental and graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness about health and biomedical science careers and the admissions process for medical, dental, and graduate schools. The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, the UConn Chapters of the Student National Medical Association and the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association, and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund sponsored this year's conference.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Christine Crawford, a UConn School of Medicine Class of 2014 graduate, psychiatry resident physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School, spoke to the students about her personal journey through college and medical school. Enrichment activities for high school students included: *Test Your Science Knowledge* presented by Ms. Nazle Jalaludin, community based education specialist, Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, UConn Health; Dentistry by Dr. Flavio Uribe, post graduate program director and orthodontic clinic director, UConn Health; and Cardiology by Dr. Peter Schulman, professor of medicine and director of Cardiology Fellowship, Calhoun Cardiology Center, UConn Health. During the morning's events, the high school students also participated in a college admissions panel with several Connecticut colleges/universities.

The Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference also included hands-on activities for the high school students such as recording blood pressure and CPR, professionalism, and networking, which were led by members of the UConn Student National Medical Association. High school students also had the opportunity to participate in a virtual anatomy presentation led by Dr. John Harrison, associate professor, Craniofacial Sciences, UConn Health, Dr. James Watras, associate professor, Department of Cell Biology, UConn Health, and Dr. Dharamainder Choudhary, assistant professor, Department of Surgery, UConn Health. Additionally, Dr. Michael Goupil, associate professor, Division of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, associate dean for students, UConn School of Dental Medicine, along with UConn dental students, presented a dental forensic hands-on workshop for high school students.

College students who participated in enrichment seminars learned about the admissions process for graduate, medical and dental programs offered at UConn Health. The college students also participated in a mock admissions process where they served as potential Admissions Committee evaluators. Student participants ranked prospective applicants based on their academic profiles, letters of recommendation and MCAT scores. Led by Dr. Granville Wrensford, assistant dean and associate director, Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, UConn Health; Dr. Kerry-Ann Stewart, assistant director, Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs and assistant professor of community medicine and health care; Ayibatari Sikpi, second year medical



student; and Olajide Abiola, second year medical student, the participants engaged in discussions and activities similar to the admissions committees at UConn Health. This process helped the students better understand what admissions committees are looking for in qualified candidates.

For college students specifically interested in dental medicine, the Dental Impressions Program led by Dr. Sarita Arteaga, associate clinical professor, Reconstructive Sciences, UConn Health, held a series of information sessions which included hands-on activities

such as taking dental impressions and touring the dental labs at UConn Health.

Both the high school and college students had opportunities to listen to personal anecdotes from students currently enrolled at the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, and the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences. The medical, dental and graduate students shared their progression through their respective health professions or graduate programs school and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions.



Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Christine Crawford is currently a psychiatry resident physician at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Crawford grew up in East Hartford, CT where she attended East Hartford High School. While in high school, through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, she participated in the High School Student Research Apprentice Program. She has also participated in the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program and has been a participant in other mentoring summer programs through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.



Dr. Christine Crawford receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.

She attended Boston College for her undergraduate studies and later attended graduate school at Boston University where she obtained a master's degree in public health

with a concentration in social and behavioral Sciences. Dr. Crawford attended the UConn School of Medicine where she was selected as an urban health scholar and coordinated various community health fairs throughout the greater Hartford area. Also, during her time in medical school she mentored 8th graders through the Great Explorations weekly Saturday Academy sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.



Christine Crawford, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Crawford was selected as a Gold Humanism scholar and was recently selected as an American Psychiatric Association Minority Fellow. She has recently been awarded a generous grant by the American Psychiatric Association to develop a community-based intervention targeting African-American patients in a Boston community health center to raise awareness about depression. Dr. Crawford is also coordinating a weekly seminar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that explores the difficulty of managing mental health issues for students of color.

Dr. Crawford has a strong interest in mentorship as well as reducing the stigma associated with mental health in communities of color. One fun fact that most people do not know about Dr. Crawford is that she has a black belt in TaeKwonDo, so watch out!

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

2015-2016 Academic Year Doctors Academy Closing Ceremony

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted its annual Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy (Aetna HPPI) on May 18, 2016 at UConn Health. The Aetna HPPI is an

education consortium offering a comprehensive program of educational enrichment and support activities to increase the competitive applicant pool of diverse students who are interested in careers in the health professions. This Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony

marked the culmination of a very positive academic year enrichment experience for high school students from the Greater Hartford area who participated in the Great Explorations Doctors, Jumpstart Doctors, Junior Doctors, and Senior Doctors Academies. Remarks were given by Dr. R. Lamont MacNeil, dean, School of Dental Medicine and professor of oral health and diagnostic science and Mr. Chris Montross, senior managing director, Community Relations and Urban Marketing, Aetna. The keynote speaker was Luke Bronin, mayor, City of Hartford, who congratulated the students on their achievements and encouraged them to continue on their paths towards becoming health professionals and stressed the need for more health professionals, especially from Hartford.



Hartford mayor, Luke Bronin receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.



Doctors Academy graduating class of 2016 with Dr. Kerry-Ann Stewart (*far left*), Dr. Granville Wrensford (*left*), and Dr. Marja Hurley (*right*).

Student reflections were given by Jafet Rivera, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and class of 2016 graduate, Ja'Cere Parks, a Jumpstart Doctors Academy participant and I'Jaaz Muhammad, a freshman at UConn and a past participant of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. Ms. Markita Crowe, a parent, also spoke about how the program has greatly influenced her daughter and sons who have participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. All of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates are currently attending college with 10 of them enrolled at UConn. Cameron Hand, Tanya Miller, Alexander Naoum, and Michael Celadita were each awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship.

Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. 2016 Scholarship Recipient

In honor of Dr. Boake Plessy's contributions, UConn Health has established a scholarship fund that is used to support educational enhancement for students who participated in the Aetna HPPI Academy and are planning to continue their education at the post-secondary level.

The Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs – Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship was awarded to Brandy Robinson at the Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony. Ms. Robinson will be attending UConn.

To contribute to the Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund or for more information about philanthropy to support the Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health, please call Abigail O'Brien, director of development for health sciences at 860-679-4524.



Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2016 Program Closing Ceremony - Medical Alumni Speaker

Duarte Goncalves Machado, M.D. is board-certified in neurology with subspecialty training in movement disorders. Dr. Machado committed to a career in medicine early in his life with participation in summer enrichment programs sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health while he was a high school student in Waterbury, CT. He completed the High School Student Research Apprentice Program, followed by the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program and then the Summer Research Fellowship Program. A graduate of Trinity College (B.A., Neuroscience, 2001) and the UConn School of Medicine (M.D., 2005), he completed neurology residency training at the Yale School of Medicine, where he was also chosen to be chief resident. He was subsequently recruited to join the faculty at Yale, where his primary responsibility was the care of patients with involuntary movements in the Neurology Outpatient Clinic in the Division of Movement Disorders. He contributed substantially to the clinical growth of the Division and now follows one of the largest cohorts of patients with Parkinson's disease in the entire state. He was also heavily involved in the teaching of medical students, residents and fellows, and completed the Med-

ical Education Fellowship Program at Yale. He was then recruited to be co-director of the Hartford Healthcare Neuroscience Institute Movement Disorders Center, a position he began on July 1, 2016. Dr. Machado credits much of his success to the guidance, knowledge, and support he received over the years from the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.



Dr. Duarte Goncalves Machado receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2016 Program Closing Ceremony - Keynote Speaker

Gary Rhule, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A. is the director of Health and Human Services in Hartford, CT, a role that includes the management and operation of a department that develops plans, policies, and programs to address the city's public health and human service needs. He has extensive experience in health care as a physician executive, formerly being an emergency room physician; a medical director at Aetna; a vice president of health services; as well as being a volunteer in medical missions in the Caribbean and Africa. He is a graduate of Amherst College, Massachusetts (B.A.); the University of Rochester School of Medicine (M.D.); Johns Hopkins University (M.P.H.); and the Wharton School, the University of Pennsylvania (M.B.A.). In addition, Dr. Rhule is the author of *Sailing on Broken Pieces*, a book that tackles the unspoken issue of mental illness in our community. He is a member of several boards, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the Jacob L. and Lewis Fox Foundation. In his spare time he writes and travels.



Dr. Gary Rhule receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.

Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student National Dental Association – UConn Health Chapter Hispanic Heritage Month Event

Each year the UConn Chapter of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association (SNDA/HSDA) in collaboration with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the Hispanic culture of the UConn Health community through food, song, dance, and other artistic presentations. Last year's event took place on October 21, 2015, at the UConn Health campus. The event included authentic Hispanic cuisine, raffle prizes, and entertainment. Local Hispanic restaurants provided delicious

dishes such as Lomo saltado from Piolin (Peru), chicken stew with rice and beans and sweet fried bananas from Caribe (Dominican Republic), pupusas from La Casita Del Sabor (El Salvador), and empanadas from Aqui Me Quedo (Puerto Rico). The night's events also showcased dance lessons (salsa, merengue, bachata) by Maria Vargas, third-year dental student and Melissa Mondesir, fourth-year dental student. Additionally, Brianna Munoz, fourth-year dental student and certified Zumba instructor, led the audience in a Zumba dance.



Student National Medical Association – UConn Health Chapter Culture Shock Event

Each year the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosts Culture Shock, an event sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the diversity of the UConn Health community through food, poetry, fashion, song, dance, and other artistic presentations. Participants enjoy a wide array of local and international cuisine, which is obtained through donations from many restaurants and individuals from UConn Health. Last year, Culture Shock was held on December 4, 2015, in UConn Health's Keller Auditorium. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation, Hartford, CT.

SNMA is a nationally run student organization whose mission is to “support current and future underrepresented minority medical students, to address the needs of underserved communities, and to increase the number of

clinically excellent, culturally and socially conscious physicians”. Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation is dedicated to “empowering homeless persons to become independent so they may live and work with dignity and respect” by “providing housing, food, job training, access to medical services, and basic human needs”. The UConn Chapter of SNMA chose to donate to Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation as the first step in forging an ongoing relationship with a local charity organization whose work is directly in line with SNMA’s mission and serves an underrepresented population within Connecticut. SNMA has since held several volunteer events at Mercy House, serving its residents. Additionally, SNMA wanted to raise awareness concerning homelessness and food instability as a major factor in the development of disparate health outcomes that disproportionately affect marginalized groups such as minorities and individuals with mental health issues.



Student National Medical Association – UConn Health Chapter Hosts 2nd Annual MAPS Day

The Minority Association of Pre-medical Students (MAPS) is the pre-medical undergraduate and post-baccalaureate section of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). The UConn MAPS chapter at Storrs aims to increase diversity within the health professions and ultimately eliminate health disparities. The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs supports the MAPS chapter in providing knowledge, resources, programs, and skills to pre-medical students so that they are competitive applicants for medical school.

The UConn SNMA Chapter hosted the undergraduate members of the UConn MAPS chapter for an enrichment visit at UConn Health on April 8, 2016. MAPS participants heard presentations from UConn Health faculty and staff about UConn School of Medicine, the medical school application process, and financing a medical school education. MAPS members also interacted with current medical students who spoke about their personal journeys to medical school. The day's activities also included a virtual anatomy presentation, and workshops on mentorship & networking, and leadership & interviewing. The event ended with a tour of UConn Health.

West Middle School Enrichment with the Student National Medical Association UConn Chapter

On February 17, 2016, the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted 21 7th and 8th grade students from Hartford's West Middle School for a day of enrichment focused on the "heart of medicine" at UConn Health. The enrichment workshops were facilitated by the members of the UConn Chapter of the Student National Medical Association. The day commenced with greetings from Ms. Diane Cantello, vice president

of Corporate Responsibility at The Hartford Financial Service Group, Inc. Throughout the day, the middle school students heard from a panel of current medical students, sat in on a presentation about the Cardiovascular System, and participated in the blood pressure, heart sounds and CPR sessions for hands on activities to learn more about the medical field. This event was funded by The Hartford.



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Connecticut State Legislative Fund

John and Valerie Rowe
Health Professions Scholars Program

The Hartford

University of Connecticut Foundation
Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs

UConn Health

William and Alice Mortensen Foundation

Acknowledgement of Our Parents, Teachers, Peer Counselors and Mentors

We thank you for your support and continued encouragement and commitment to the students.



Important Dates

April 22, 2017

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

May 17, 2017

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy Closing Ceremony

Application Deadlines

March 1, 2017

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Summer Research Fellowship Program

April 1, 2017

High School Student Research Apprentice Program

May 19, 2017

Aetna HPPI Great Explorations Doctors Academy

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program

**For more information about the Pipeline
Programs listed below, visit us at:
health.uconn.edu/hcop**

- Great Explorations Middle School Program, 6th-8th grades
- Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy 6-week Summer and 30-week Academic Year Programs, 8th-12th grades
- High School Student Research Apprentice Program, 11th-12th grades
- High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series, 11th-12th grades
- Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program, 9th-16th grades
- Pre-College Enrichment Program, 13th grade
- Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, 13th-16th grades
- Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, 13th-15th grades
- Summer Research Fellowship Program, 15th-16th grades
- Post Baccalaureate Program, post-16th grades
- BS/DMD Joint Degree Program, 13th-16th grades

– This publication was funded by the Aetna Foundation Fund. –

