

UConn HEALTH

Health Professions

Aetna HPPI Pipeline

Partnership Initiative

December 2017



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 Schools of Medicine, 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 and 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 192 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2017 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the 2017-2018 academic year, we anticipate approximately 752 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 pro-

fessions and am delighted that State Senator Douglas McCrory served as our keynote speaker at the 2016-2017 Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony. Dr. Lenworth Ellis, assistant professor of medicine at UConn Health, served as our keynote speaker and Dr. Kristen Glasgow, surgeon, Critical Care Medicine, Bridgeport Hospital and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2009 graduate, served as our medical alumni speaker at the closing ceremonies of our 2017 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 2017. In the SOM, 14% of the graduating class are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars, while 21% of the graduating class in the SODM are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars. We are also proud that 60% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SOM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students, and 53% 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 2017 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 continues 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 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 40 of the school's students visited UConn Health where they received information on careers in dental 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 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. This year we also had three graduating students who each received full scholarships to attend Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

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 the Student National Medical Association, Student National Dental Association, the Rowe Honors Program and Kevin McLaughlin and his staff at the UConn Storrs campus.



Greetings from...

Kerry-Ann Stewart, Ph.D.

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

It has been a pleasure serving as Assistant Director for the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. The community that the department has built is one that will continue to assist students from diverse backgrounds aspire to be physicians, dentists, and biomedical researchers. 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. It is always wonderful to see the outstanding research presentations given 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.

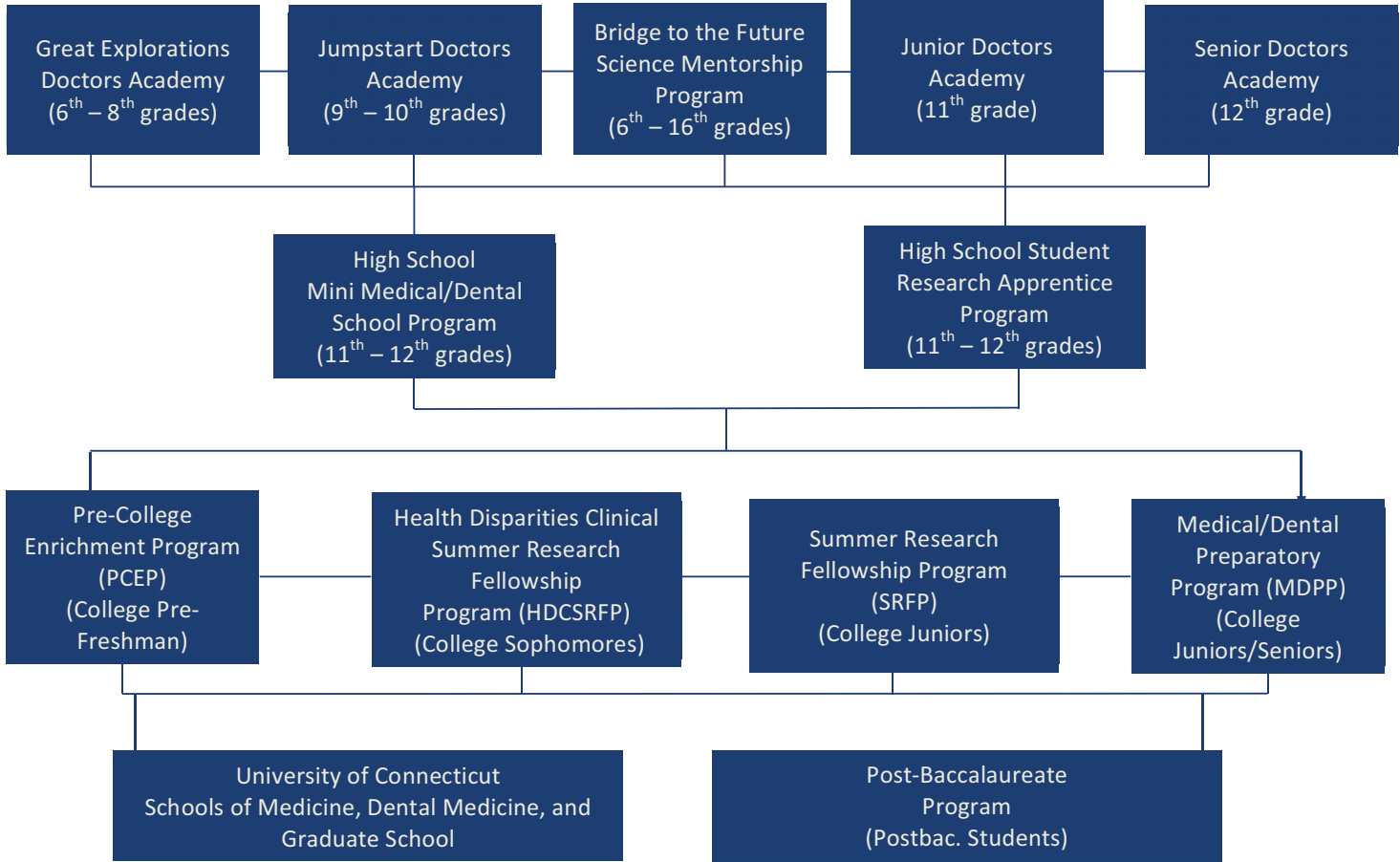
We are also happy to have the opportunity to expose the participants of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy to new areas of medicine including suturing, surgical knot-tying, and the radiology workstation. It has been extremely rewarding to see all of the graduates of the Aetna HPPI Senior Doctors Academy 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 and advances in medicine taking place at UConn Health including radiological imaging.

This academic year, we have continued to strengthen the pipeline by expanding our mentorship of undergraduate students preparing for medical school or dental school. We have also continued to work closely with the UConn Chapter of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and the John & Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars, and have met new students through the SchOLA²RS House Learning Community at the Storrs campus. The department's continued presence at local universities as well as regional and national conferences

has been instrumental in recruiting the brightest talents to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine here at UConn. I am also proud of the Aetna HPPI college 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 first-year curriculum and subspecialties 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, and professional and graduate school students. I thank the UConn Health community for its continued support of the Aetna HPPI pipeline participants. I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Stacey Brown, Dr. Yvonne Grimm-Jorgensen, Dr. Kathy Martin and Mr. Kevin McLaughlin. 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...

Mark Fleming, M.D.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor



Dr. Mark Fleming graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2017.

After graduating high school in 2009, Dr. Fleming enrolled in Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia. He graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. He then enrolled in the

UConn School of Medicine during the fall of 2013.

Dr. Fleming decided that he wanted to be a doctor at the age of 6. He says, “I have always enjoyed visiting my pediatrician and learning about the human body. In addition, I watched my father struggle with his health as I was growing up and it only inspired me to strive to help people like him in the future.”

Dr. Fleming became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs when he was accepted into the Medical/ Dental Preparatory Program Track 2 prior to his first year of medical school. During this time he also became involved in the mentoring program with the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy students. Dr. Fleming says, “Being able to watch them journey through high school as they aspired for college and beyond was very fulfilling. I am happy I was able to be there as a mentor and friend to these young adults.”

Dr. Fleming is currently completing his general surgery residency at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. His future plans include landing a pediatric surgery fellowship becoming a pediatric surgeon as well as teaching at an academic institution.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Fleming responded, “I would like to thank Dr. Hurley for her support and leadership in helping me to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor. My education was made possible because of the generosity of her office and I wouldn’t be here without it. I would also like to

thank Dr. Henderson for his support and for always being there to lend an ear or word of advice. Lastly, I would like to thank Dr. Grimm for seeing the potential in me to develop as a medical student leader and for her continued encouragement.”

Dr. Fleming would like to thank and express his gratitude to the following people: “My professors and preceptors for everything they taught me along the way. Specifically, I would like to say thank you to Dr. Buchanan, my student continuity practice (SCP) preceptor, for refining my clinical reasoning and skills on a weekly basis and for being one of my closest mentors in medicine.”

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “Always pay it forward. Never give up on your dreams and remember that you can do anything you put your mind to.”

Congratulations to...

Maria Vargas, D.M.D.

Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor



Dr. Maria Vargas graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. Vargas attended Midwood High School in Brooklyn, New York. After graduation she enrolled at Hunter College, a City University of New York. She graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and a minor in mathematics and music.

Dr. Vargas decided to become a dentist right after high school when she started working at a local dental office. At that time, she didn't have any money saved up for college and due to her immigration status she could not apply for financial assistance, so she couldn't attend college right away. She heard that a dentist was looking for help around the office and she decided to take the opportunity to save money for college. Dr. Vargas says, "I have never considered a career in dentistry until I started working there. I learned a great amount from the dentist and quickly knew it was what I wanted to dedicate my life to."

Dr. Vargas became involved with the Health Career Opportunity Programs Department since the day of her interview at UConn. She says, "I met Dr. Hurley that same day and I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of the UConn Community. She was incredibly kind, helpful and welcoming. I am very thankful for all the opportunities that the Health Career Opportunity Programs has given me throughout the years at UConn. Every single experience has opened another door and allowed me to grow as an individual and future dentist."

Dr. Vargas is currently completing her general practice residency at Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City. After the one-year residency, her goal is to work part time in a private practice and a community health center for a few years while making sufficient earnings to start up her own practice in Brooklyn. Her goals include serving the community, underserved populations and people of all ages. Dr. Vargas is not closed off to the idea of special-

izing but at this time she would like to remain as a general dentist to be able to treat entire families and reach as many people as possible.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. Vargas responded, "There are many people who have had a great influence in my life. The most important is my family as they have supported me unconditionally. My mom has always believed in me and without her I would not be where I am today. She gives me strength and hope to achieve even greater things in life."

Dr. Vargas expresses how grateful she is for the continuous support she has received from faculty and friends. She would like to thank and express gratitude to the following people: "The entire operative and prosthodontics faculty, who have watched us grow from the start of dental school and supported us every single day. They are not only our most important mentors but also our friends. I feel blessed to have created a second family at UConn."

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in health professions: "As the oldest in my family, my cousins look to me for advice and guidance. The same words I share with the younger generation. I have to admit that at times, I felt scared and doubted myself when applying to dental school, but my family helped me believe in myself and I took many leaps to obtain a better education. Once you find something you are passionate about, work hard and be patient, and you'll achieve great things. Take in all the negative moments and use them as fuel to grow into a better individual. Always look forward and surround yourselves with wonderful people."

Congratulations to...

Keisha White, M.D.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor



Dr. Keisha White graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. White attended Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2012.

Dr. White decided she wanted to become a pediatrician at a very young age. She says, “It’s the only thing I have always wanted to do. I had an amazing pediatrician, Dr. Pender, who really took the time to teach me about my body and make my experiences fun! I have always enjoyed working with children and have loved the science of human physiology and pathology.”

Dr. White became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs when she participated in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program while she was in college. She had an excellent experience and was able to work at the Connecticut Department of Public Health in the Primary Care office working to better understand the areas of need in the state for oral health and working to improve data collection for application for health professional shortage area designation by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Dr. White is currently completing her pediatrics residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her future plans include working with children and families from underserved communities.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. White responded “Petra Clark-Dufner for consistently pushing me to do better, exposing me to new experiences and being an excellent mentor. Dr. Aruna Ramanan for helping me to develop clinical acumen, for being an excellent mentor, and for welcoming me into pediatrics with open arms.”

Dr. White would like to express gratitude to the following people: “My parents and family for being supportive of me over the years. Dr. Hurley and the Health Career Opportunity Programs office for making my M.D. more easily obtainable and for providing a space of inclusiveness and support on campus.”

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in health professions: “It is a marathon, not a sprint. There will always be difficulties along the way but you can do it if you keep your eyes on the prize.”

Congratulations to...

Titus Wongk, D.M.D.

Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor



Dr. Titus Wongk graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. Titus Wongk attended Houston County High in Warner Robins, Georgia. During his senior year of high school he did an externship for five hours a day at a local private practice. This opportunity allowed Dr. Wongk to truly see what the field of dentistry is like. After graduation in 2009, Dr. Wongk enrolled at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. He graduated in 2013 with his degree in biomedical science.

Dr. Wongk became involved with the Health Career Opportunity Programs through the summer Medical/ Dental Preparatory Program Track 2. One of his best experiences was working as a teacher assistant for the Health Career Opportunity Programs Medical/ Dental Preparatory Program Track 1 DAT Prep.

Dr. Wongk is currently completing his Advanced Education in General Dentistry at New York University Lutheran in Bessemer, Alabama. His future plans include enjoying life in a private practice general dental environment. He is not planning on specializing and would like to work mostly with the adult population.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Wongk responded, “Dr. Arteaga, Dr. Agar, and Dr. Grimm-Jorgensen. They are the most influential because at the times when I was overwhelmed or stressed about how to successfully complete the tasks at hand, they were there in full support to offer guidance and words of encouragement.”

Dr. Wongk would like to thank and express gratitude to the following people: “My patients that I have seen over the years who provide small gems of advice on how to become a great care provider. To my professors who took personal interest in my well-being through my years at

UConn, and lastly to friends and family who pledged to place their teeth in my care even before I knew what dentistry was.”

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “While the dental profession is not for everyone, it is certainly attainable for everyone who desires [it]. The key is never to give up.”

Congratulations to Our Mentors and Past Program Participants - UConn Medical, Dental and Graduate School 2017 Graduates

Nicole Becker, D.M.D.

Kamisha Byas, M.D.

Daniel Camacho, D.M.D.

Daniel Carlozzi, D.M.D.

Christine Farag, M.D.

Mark Fleming, M.D.

Tracey Modeste, M.D.

Cléa Moore, M.D.

Salvatore Rizzuto, D.M.D.

Josué Santos, M.D.

Alexis Thompson, M.D.

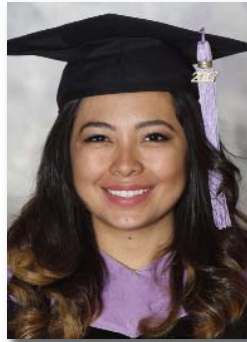
Keisha White, M.D.

Titus Wongk, D.M.D.

Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) Medical/Dental Student 2017 Bridge Mentoring Award



Mark Fleming, M.D.



Maria Vargas, D.M.D.



Keisha White, M.D.



Titus Wongk, 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 2017 recipients were: Mark Fleming, M.D., General Surgery, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, Maria Vargas, D.M.D., General Practice Residency, Bellevue Hospital Center, New York City, Keisha White, M.D., Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, Titus Wongk, D.M.D., Advanced Education in General Dentistry, New York University Lutheran, Bessemer, Alabama.

John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship Recipients

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs provides John & 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. John 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 Grad-

uate 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 2017 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships were awarded to Bruno Casanova, Kiara Dutchin, Angel Green and Wesia Malik. 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. Angel Green and Wesia Malik have also been accepted into the UConn Honors Program as Rowe Health Professions Scholars.



From left: Dr. Granville Wrensford, Dr. Marja Hurley, John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship recipients Bruno Casanova, Kiara Dutchin, Angel Green and Wesia Malik, Boake L. Plessy Scholarship recipient Justin Ude, and Dr. Kerry-Ann Stewart.

Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. 2017 Scholarship Recipients

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 Doctors 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 Jeffrey Narcisse and Justin Ude at the Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony. Mr. Narcisse and Mr. Ude 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 contact: Abigail O'Brien, director of development for health sciences, UConn Foundation at 860-679-4524 or aobrien@foundation.uconn.edu.



Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D.

[Click on this link to contribute to the Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund: health.uconn.edu/hcop/donate/](https://health.uconn.edu/hcop/donate/)

The Greater Hartford Chapter of the Links, Inc. Scholarship Recipients

The Greater Hartford Chapter of the Links, Inc. presented scholarships to graduating seniors of the Doctors Academy during the Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony held on May 17, 2017. The Links, Inc. is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of professional women of color in 285 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest

and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The scholarships were awarded to help the students with college expenses. Receiving scholarships were Kiera Flynn, Shamar Hall, Giovanni Jones, Alana Morgan, and Tiana Starks.



Members of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the Links, Inc., with scholarship recipients (in white coats, left to right) Kiera Flynn, Shamar Hall, Giovanni Jones, Alana Morgan, and Tina Starks.

Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy Graduating Class of 2017!



Caswell Bailey
Manchester Community College



Emily Bearse
University of Hartford



Kayla Betts
Trinity College



Bruno Casanova
University of Connecticut



Vy Dinh
New York University



Kiara Dutchin
University of Connecticut

Hard Work
Career-Focused
Optimal Performance
Persistence



Kiera Flynn
Trinity College



Angel Green
University of Connecticut



Shamar Hall
Eastern Connecticut State University



Taleeksia Hill
Central Connecticut State University



Giovanni Jones
Trinity College



Wesia Malik
University of Connecticut



Janell Martin
Eastern Connecticut State University



Alana Morgan
Drexel University



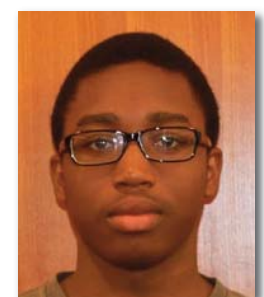
Jeffrey Narcisse
University of Connecticut



Marwa Saleh
University of Connecticut



Tiana Starks
Trinity College



Justin Ude
University of Connecticut

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy and Great Explorations 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 American Red Cross, Hartford Stage, and the UConn

Health and UConn Storrs campuses. The Great Exploration students also visited the UConn Health campus, plus the Institute of Living, the Trinity College campus, the Central Connecticut State University campus and the Connecticut Science Center.



Great Explorations

The Great Explorations Program is an enrichment program designed to provide extracurricular activities in math, science, and language arts to seventh- and eighth-grade middle school students. A total of 228 students who participated in the Great Explorations Program in 2016-2017 were enrolled in one of eight middle schools: Jumoke at Hartford Conservatory, Jumoke SMART Academy, Kennelly, CREC Academy of Science and Innovation, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, West Middle School, Betances STEM, and Two Rivers Magnet Middle School.

Great Explorations also offers a six-week summer academic enrichment program for rising eighth-grade participants and a 30-week Saturday Academy for eighth-graders. The summer activities are conducted at the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science and the Saturday Academy is held at the UConn Greater Hartford campus. During the summer of 2017 there were a total of 24 students participating in the summer component. A total of 24 students participated in the 30-week academic year component of the program. This included 21 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 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.

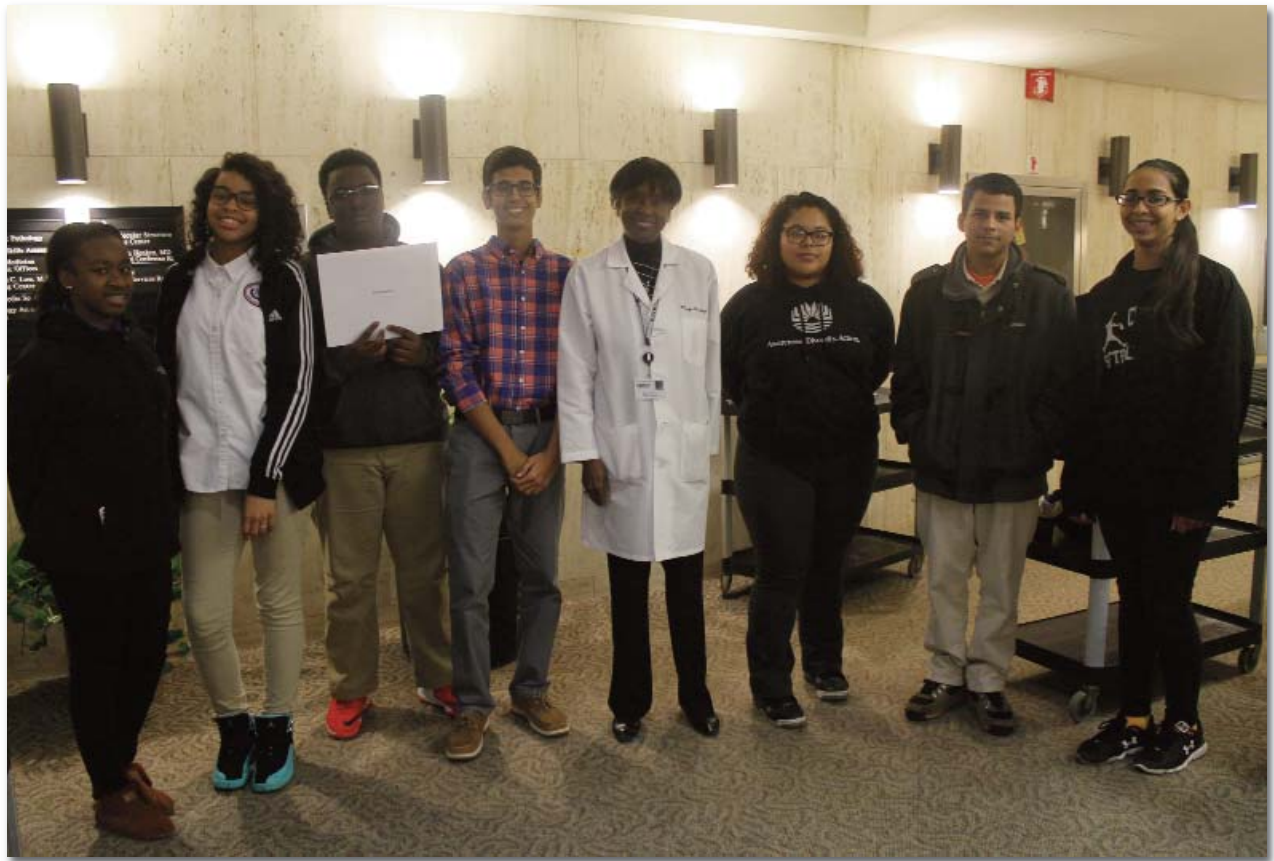
The Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy has two major components, the summer program and the academic year program. Both components are offered at the UConn Greater Hartford campus. The summer and academic year programs are designed to advance students' academic skill levels in math, science and English. The programs promote personal growth through extracurricular experiences designed to help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and the American College Test (ACT). A total of 127 students participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy during the 2016-2017 academic year.



High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series

The High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series offers eight weekly lectures and demonstrations presented by faculty members of the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Topics include molecular biology, pharmacology, cardiology, oncology, and dental medicine. Sixty-six Connecticut high school juniors and seniors participated in the 2017 program.

Participants are 11th- and 12th-grade students who are in-state residents and selected by their school guidance counselors or science teachers. All students have shown a strong interest in pursuing careers in medicine, dental medicine and the biological sciences. Sessions are also broadcast live to high schools throughout the state of Connecticut. For more information contact Anastasia Rollins at 860-679-3484 or rollins@uchc.edu.



Epidemiology

The Epidemiology Program, a series of five classes, is held for students from the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation 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, De-

partment 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. Fourteen 11th- and 12th-graders attended sessions at UConn Health on four occasions and Drs. Wetstone and Stevens visited ASI on one occasion.

High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program

Thirteen students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2017 High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program. As part of the 2017 program, seven students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State University and

nine students commuted daily to the UConn Health campus for their research project. At the end of the summer, the students gave oral and poster presentations of their research results during a special research symposium.



CREC Academy of Science and Innovation, UConn Health, and Central Connecticut State University College Science Partnership

Seventy-two ninth- and tenth-grade students from the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation participated in the 2016-2017 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.

Teens as Teachers

The UConn School of Medicine's Delivery of Clinical Care (DoCC) curriculum 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 CREC Academy of Science and

Innovation (ASI), who act as patient instructors. The medical students then receive feedback on their performance from the adolescent patient instructors.

Eleven students from ASI participated in the program last year. Under the leadership of Dr. Stacey Brown, director of community based education in the UConn School of Medicine, the participating adolescents are given health education workshops and training prior to their participation in the 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 participate in the academic track (completion of academic courses) at UConn Storrs or Central Connecticut State University.

This past summer, 10 students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the UConn School of Engineering Bridge Program at Storrs and seven students participated in an academic track at Central Connecticut State University. All Pre-College Enrichment Program participants along with eight 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

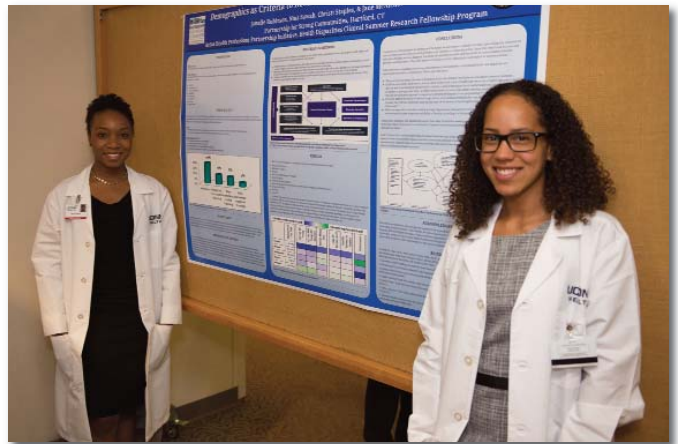
The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a seven-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores, juniors, seniors or recent graduates. In the summer of 2017, 16 students participated in the program. The program is designed to provide the following: clinical research and enrichment experiences, an introduction to health disparities across cultures, principles of clinical medicine, public health issues, research and interventions, an overview of cultural definitions, and discussions of specific techniques for working with diverse 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 2017 program were:

- Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services
- Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Pappanikou), UConn Health

- Commission on Equity and Opportunity
- Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health
- The Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity, Saint Francis Hospital
- Family Life Education
- 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
- Partnership for Strong Communities

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



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 Preparatory Program

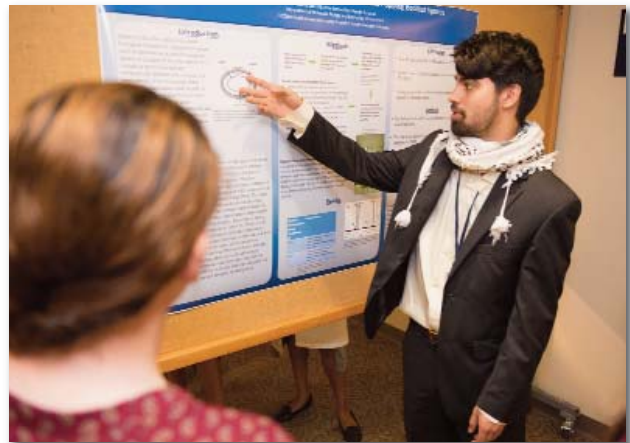
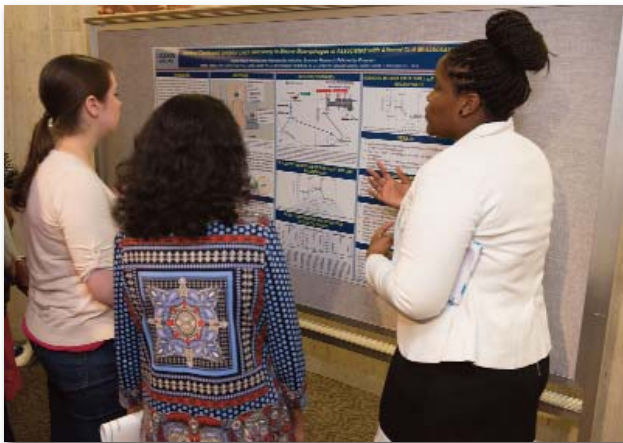
Track 2 take courses in the basic medical sciences to prepare them for the first-year curriculum of medical and dental school. A total of 44 college students and recent college graduates participated in academic classes, guest lectures, test-taking strategies, and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health campus during the six-week summer 2017 program.



Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a nine-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). Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) students are encouraged to apply.

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. Students devote approximately 32 hours per week on a research project and 8 hours per week to clinical experiences. In the summer of 2017, a total of seven students participated in the program. At the end of the summer, the students gave a poster presentation of their research results during a special research symposium.



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 2016-2017 Parental Seminar Series included a college admissions panel which included Aida Silva, associate director of admission, University of Connecticut, Jane Gardner, assistant director of admissions at Central Connecticut State University, and Bill Jack, associate dean of admissions and financial aid, Wesleyan University. They discussed college financial aid and the admissions process. Dr. Gary Rule, director of Health and Human Services, Hartford, presented information on anxiety and stress. The Parental Seminar Series also included a pres-



Dr. Gary Rhule presenting on anxiety and stress

entation on genetic links to cardiovascular disease by Dr. Annabelle Rodriguez, professor of cell biology, Center for Vascular Biology, UConn Health.

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

The 2017 Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 22, with approximately 152 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/ Latino Medical Student Association, 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. John Zyzo, a UConn School of Dental Medicine Class of 2016 graduate and a general dentistry resident at Danbury Hospital, spoke to the students about his personal journey through college and dental school. Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on *Test your Knowledge* presented by Ms. Ashley Arthur, incoming dental student, Class of 2021, UConn Health; dentistry by Dr. Geraldine Weinstein, associate professor, Division of General Dentistry, Department of Craniofacial Science, 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 suturing and knot-tying, professionalism, and networking, which were led by members of the Student National Medical Association/Latino Medical Student Association. High School students also had the opportunity to participate in a virtual anatomy presentation led by Dr. John Harrison, associate professor, Cran-

iofacial Sciences, UConn Health, and medical, dental, and graduate students. Additionally, Dr. Michael Goupil, associate professor, Division of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, UConn School of Dental Medicine, along with UConn dental students, presented a dental forensic hands-on workshop for high school students.



For college students specifically interested in dental medicine, the Dental Impressions Program, led by Dr. Sarita Artega, UConn School of Dental Medicine associate dean for students and associate clinical professor of reconstructive sciences, 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 UConn graduate program in public health. The medical, dental and graduate students shared their progression through their respective health professions program and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions.

College students who participated in enrichment seminars learned about the admissions process for graduate and medical 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. Thomas Regan, UConn School of Medicine assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, and associate professor of emergency medicine; Omar Allam, first-year medical student; Maschal Mohiuddin, second-year medical student; and Fludiona Naka, third-year medical student and MPH candidate, 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.



Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

Keynote Speaker

Dr. John Zyzo was raised in Southbury, Connecticut, about an hour outside of New York City. His involvement with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs began when he enrolled at UConn in 2008. It was through his participation in the summer enrichment programs that Dr. Zyzo developed his interest in dental medicine and built upon his science background. He was a participant in the Pre-College Enrichment Program Research Component the summer of 2008, the Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program (now known as the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program) the summer of 2009, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1-DAT Prep the summer of 2010, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2011, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2-BMS the summer of 2012.

As an undergraduate, Dr. Zyzo majored in molecular and cell biology while also minoring in business administration. He also attended the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Conferences from 2009 through 2011 before serving as a Road to Success Panelist for the college portion of the conference from 2012 through 2015.

Aside from studying, Dr. Zyzo was involved in numerous community outreach programs and continued his participation throughout dental school. He devoted time to programs such as Connecticut Mission of Mercy, Migrant Farm Workers Clinic, Give Kids a Smile, Healthy Adolescent Smiles, and South Park Shelter for the Homeless.

Although Dr. Zyzo enjoyed his time providing oral health education at these various community programs, his greatest memories are of his three service trips to Honduras. On two occasions as an undergraduate, he was able to volunteer at a dental clinic and assist local dentists as they provided comprehensive dental care in very underserved areas of Honduras. Fast forward about five years as a third-year dental student, Dr. Zyzo returned to Honduras on a similar service trip and was able to provide comprehensive dental care himself. This proved to be a surreal experience for him, as he was able to take

part in a similar trip to Honduras and provide even more services with his newly attained skills and knowledge of dental medicine.

Dr. Zyzo graduated with a B.S. degree as a Rowe Health Professions and Honors Scholar May of 2012 and matriculated at the UConn School of Dental Medicine the following August. After completing his first year of dental school, Dr. Zyzo served as a tutor for undergraduate students studying for the Dental Admissions Test as part of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program.

Upon completing his D.M.D. degree in 2016, he decided to continue his dental education by doing a one-year general practice residency at Danbury Hospital. After finishing his residency, Dr. Zyzo hopes to continue practicing dentistry in Connecticut.



Dr. John Zyzo

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2016-2017 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 (Aetna HPPI) Doctors Academy on May 17, 2017 in Keller Auditorium 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 middle and 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, UConn School of Dental Medicine dean and professor of oral health and diagnostic sciences, and Mr. Chris Montross, senior managing director, community relations and urban marketing at Aetna. The keynote speaker was State Senator Douglas

McCrary of the 2nd District, who spoke about the importance of education and the need for health care professionals. He encouraged the students to continue on their paths towards becoming health professionals. Senator McCrary also spoke about building relationships and the need for students to seek out mentors to help them along this journey.

Student reflections were given by Kiera Flynn, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and Class of 2017 graduate, and Michael Tassavor, Senior Doctors Academy Class of 2008 graduate, UConn Class of 2012 graduate, and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2018 candidate. Ms. Paula McDonald, a parent, also gave an inspiring speech on the positive effects the programs have had on her daughters and family members who have participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. All of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates are currently attending college with seven of them enrolled at the UConn. Bruno Casanova, Kiara Dutchin, Angel Green and Wesia Malik were each awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship.



State Senator Douglas McCrary receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.



Doctors Academy graduating class of 2017 with mentor and fourth-year medical student Mark Fleming (back left).

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2017 Program Closing Ceremony – Medical Alumni Speaker –

Kristen Glasgow, M.D., grew up in North Salem, New York, and matriculated to Wesleyan University in 2000. Prior to starting her undergraduate career, Dr. Glasgow participated in the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pre-College Program the summer of 2000. She then participated in the Wesleyan University Clinical College Enrichment Program at Connecticut Valley Hospital the summer of 2001, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2002, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program the summer of 2003.

Dr. Glasgow graduated with a degree in biology in May 2004 and spent a year after doing research at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She then matriculated to UConn School of Medicine, where she received her medical degree in May 2009. At UConn, Dr. Glasgow developed her interest in surgery and matched at the Hospital of Saint Raphael Surgery Residency program, then finished at the Yale New Haven Hospital Surgical Residency.



Dr. Kristen Glasgow receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.

After residency, Dr. Glasgow completed a fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch and Shriners Hospital, where she spent a year learning burn surgery and critical care. For the past two years, she has been working as an acute care surgeon at Bridgeport Hospital covering trauma, general surgery, burn surgery and critical care.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2017 Program Closing Ceremony – Keynote Speaker –

Lenworth Ellis, M.D., graduated with honors from the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of the West Indies in 1993. He completed an internship and worked as a medical officer in Jamaica before attending Howard University, where he completed his residency in internal medicine. Dr. Ellis then completed a fellowship in public health and occupational medicine at Johns Hopkins University where he also earned a Master's Degree in public health. Dr. Ellis then joined the staff of Access Healthcare as a general internist and subsequently started his own medical practice, which he operated with his wife, Hyacinth, for seven years.

After leaving private practice, Dr. Ellis joined the faculty at UConn Health as a clinical assistant professor of medicine in July 2016. He has a clinical interest in cardiovascular disease prevention through risk factor



Dr. Lenworth Ellis receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.

modification. He is also interested in community-based approaches for improving public health. Dr. Ellis is the father of two teenage children and enjoys reading spy novels and is also trying to learn to play tennis.

Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student 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, celebrates 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 20, 2016, at the UConn Health campus. The event included

authentic Hispanic cuisine, raffle prizes, and entertainment. Local Hispanic restaurants provided delicious dishes such as beef Chaufa and beef noodles from Piolin (Peru), empanadas and rice with pigeon peas from Aqui Me Quedo (Puerto Rico), pollo asado, pollo guisado, white rice, beans and maduros from Caribe Restaurant (Dominican Republic), tacos and pico de gallo from El Tepeyac Mexican Restaurant, and pupusas and salad from Casita del Sabor (El Salvador).



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 9, 2016, in UConn Health’s Keller Auditorium. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation in Hartford.

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 because of its previous relationship with this organization. Additionally Mercy House's work with those who are socio-economically challenged within the Hartford community was something that SNMA felt strongly about. 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 the Pre-Med Experience

The UConn Student National Medical Association Chapter hosted undergraduate pre-medical students for an enrichment visit at UConn Health on March 31, 2017. The 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. The undergraduate

students also interacted with current medical students who spoke about their personal journeys to medical school. The day's activities also included virtual anatomy tutorials, a mock team-based learning exercise, and workshops on resume building, medical school applications, and life as a medical student. The event ended with a tour of UConn Health.

West Middle School Enrichment With the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association – UConn Health Chapter

On February 16, 2017, the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted 40 seventh- and eighth-grade students from Hartford's West Middle School for a day of enrichment focused on dental medicine at UConn Health. The enrichment workshops were facilitated by Dr. Sarita Arteaga in the School of Dental Medicine and the members of the UConn Chapter of the

Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association. Throughout the day, the middle school students heard from a panel of current dental students, participated in a jeopardy game on dental hygiene and oral health, and visited the Grasso Dental Simulation Lab for hands-on activities to learn more about dentistry. This event was funded by The Hartford.



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UConn Health

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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 21, 2018

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

May 16, 2018

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy Closing Ceremony

Application Deadlines

March 1, 2018

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Summer Research Fellowship Program

April 1, 2018

High School Student Research Apprentice Program

May 1, 2018

Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program

May 18, 2018

Aetna HPPI Great Explorations

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

**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

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263 FARMINGTON AVENUE • FARMINGTON, CT 06030-3920
