

# UConn HEALTH

HEALTH CAREER  
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

Health Professions

## Aetna HPPI Pipeline

Partnership Initiative

December 2018



**Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs**

*Read About the Aetna Health Professions Partnership and Pipeline Programs at:*

**[health.uconn.edu/hcop](http://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 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 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 187 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2018 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the 2018-2019 academic year, we anticipate approximately 450 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 Mr. Jay Williams, president of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

served as our keynote speaker at the 2017-2018 Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony. Ms. Jennifer Smith Turner, president/CEO of Smith & Associates, LLC, served as our keynote speaker at the closing ceremony of our 2018 summer programs. Dr. Kirk Campbell, associate professor in the Division of Nephrology, vice chair of Diversity and Inclusion, director of the Nephrology Fellowship Program, and ombudsperson for medical students at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2000 graduate, served as our medical alumnus speaker at the summer closing ceremony.

This year, our 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 2018. In the SOM, 19% of the graduating class are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars, while 18% of the graduating class in the SODM are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars. We are also proud that 69% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SOM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students, and 57% 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 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 Connecticut Health Foundation, and Newman's Own Foundation whose funds supported the 2018 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 be strong. 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 and participated in national recruitment efforts such as the Minority Recruitment Fair at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students.

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 36 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 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. This year, one of the seniors elected to enlist in the US Air Force. Currently, there are several students enrolled in medical and dental school who have participated in our pipeline programs.

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, Latino Medical Student Association, Student National Dental Association/Hispanic 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 who aspire to be physicians, dentists, and biomedical researchers. Through our academic year and summer enrichment programs, it is truly gratifying to observe the growth and development of participants from middle school, high school, and college as they transition to the next level of their education. It has been extremely rewarding to see the 2018 graduates of the Aetna HPPI Senior Doctors Academy go on to pursue majors in areas of the biological sciences, psychology, and engineering at their respective colleges and universities. I am also proud of the Aetna HPPI college pipeline participants who have been accepted to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. I look forward each year to welcoming the first-year medical and dental class as well as congratulating the fourth-year students as they graduate and go on to residency or practice.

This year, we continued to strengthen the pipeline by expanding our collaborations and increasing our presence at high school and college career fairs, health professions meetings, STEM events, and community engagements. We continued to work closely with the UConn Storrs, UConn Hartford, and Central Connecticut State University campuses to provide resources for pre-medical and pre-dental undergraduate students. The department's presence at regional and national conferences such as the Student National Medical Association Region VII Conference, the Biomedical Science Careers Program Student Conference and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students have been instrumental in recruiting talented students to the Aetna HPPI pipeline and the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, and the Graduate School at UConn Health.

Throughout the academic year and summer, we have exposed the participants of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy to new areas of medicine including emergency medical services, pediatrics, biomedical engineering, virtual anatomy, and medical simulations. We also extend our appreciation to the members of the Student National Medical Association, the

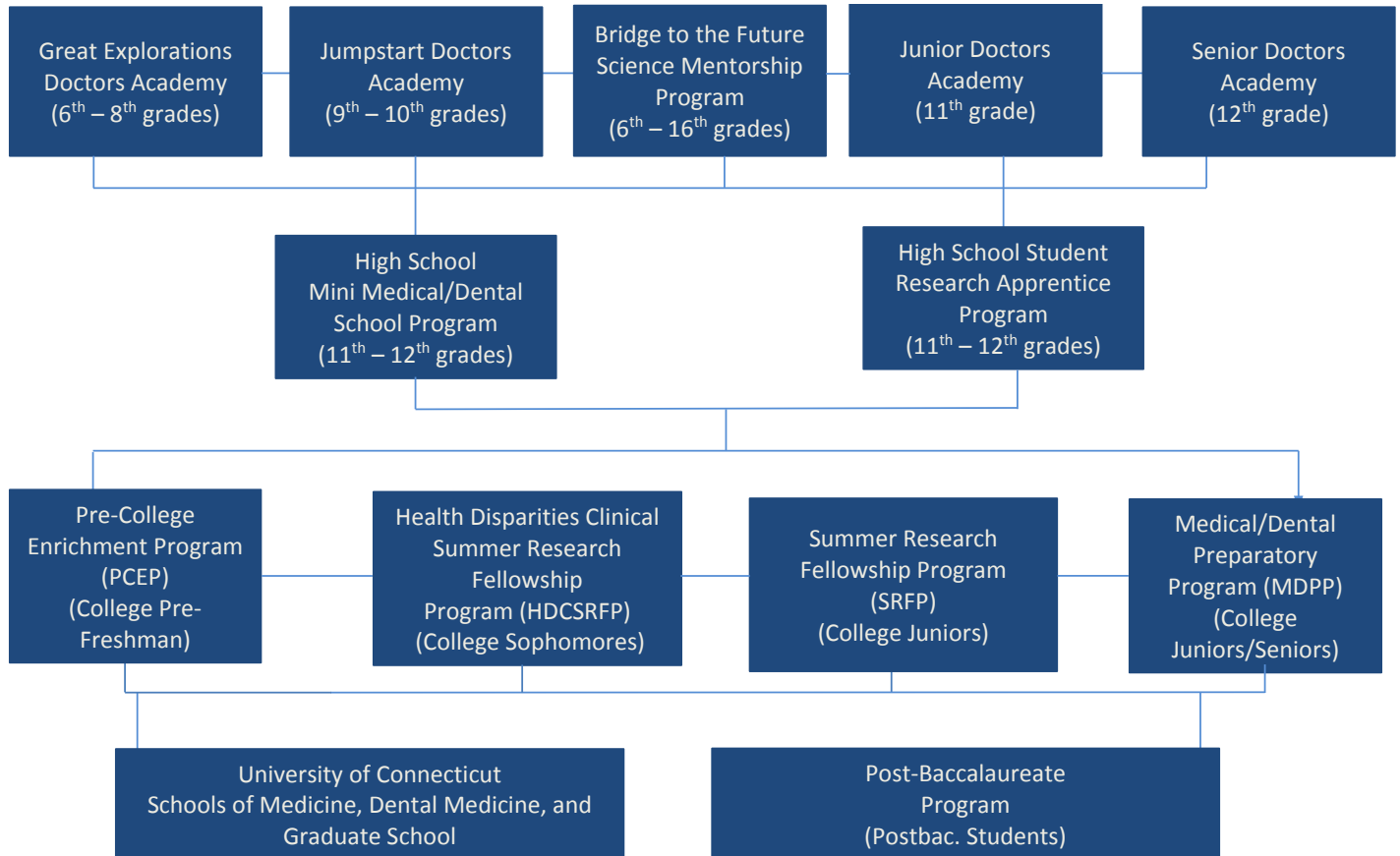
Latino Medical Student Association, and the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association who have mentored Doctors Academy participants, Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference participants, and students from West Middle School through hands-on activities. Additionally, the participants of the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program were also introduced to new research and advances in clinical medicine and dental medicine taking place at UConn Health in areas of otolaryngology, neurodevelopmental diseases, and biomaterials.

Our summer enrichment programs continue to promote strong connections to students throughout Connecticut and across the US. 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. Additionally it is great to see the enthusiasm of the Pre-College Enrichment Program participants as they start their journey towards their first year of college through academic courses and career development. Likewise, 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 the 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 students. I thank the UConn Health community for its unwavering support of the Aetna HPPI pipeline programs. I would especially like to thank Dr. Stacey Brown, Dr. Yvonne Grimm Jorgensen, Dr. Kathy Martin, Mr. Kevin McLaughlin, and Dr. Jessamy Hoffmann. The department is also very grateful to the medical, dental, and graduate students who have graciously given of their time to mentor or tutor middle school, high school, and college students to succeed academically and professionally.



# Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pipeline



# Congratulations to...

## Johnny Joseph, D.M.D.

*Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor*



**D**r. Johnny Joseph graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2018.

Dr. Joseph attended Essex High School, located in Essex Junction, Vermont. After graduating in 2010, he attended Stonehill College in North Easton, Massachusetts.

Upon completing his undergraduate studies in 2014, Dr. Joseph earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in health care administration.

Dr. Joseph began to think about the dental profession at the age of 12. By his sophomore year in college, after completing an externship at a dental practice in Massachusetts, he knew dentistry was what he wanted to do as a career. His interest is in a pediatric dentistry specialty. His intent is to mentor children about their oral health and provide preventative care from future disease.

Dr. Joseph has been involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs since the day of his interview at UConn School of Dental Medicine. He says, "During my dental school interview, I met with Dr. Hurley and other members of the Health Career Opportunity Programs office, including current students at the time. They explained to me what the office does and its mission. Upon being accepted to dental school, I received an email to participate in the BMS program. At that time, I had to decide between treating myself on a nice vacation the summer before starting dental school or spending that summer preparing for dental school. I decided to participate in the program. The program definitely prepared me for school. It made it easier to transition from college to the fast paced dental/medical curriculum." Throughout his time at UConn School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Joseph had many great experiences through the Health Career Opportunity Programs. He especially enjoyed his participation in the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program, in which he was part of a team helping high school and college students explore health care issues and prepare for health careers.

Dr. Joseph is currently doing his pediatric residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. Dr. Joseph states, "I am looking forward to working in an underserved community as I fully understand the consequences of not having a dental home nearby. As a pediatric dentist, I am restricted to treating children by profession. However, I am looking forward to working with both children and their

parents/guardian to improve oral health of the community I will be working in." In the future, he plans to continue to work in an underserved area and teach in a pediatric dental department of a hospital.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Joseph responded, "Dr. Hurley, for giving me the opportunity to be part of the Health Career Opportunity Programs family and allowing me to step out of my comfort zone and take on new challenges." Additionally, he notes her support through his research and other educational enrichment.

Dr. Joseph also thanks Dr. Sarita Arteaga, for always having her door open for him to come in and talk whenever he needed someone to listen, and for always pushing him to do better both with his professional and personal life. "I would not be the person I am today if it was not for Dr. Arteaga's passionate leadership skills", says Dr Joseph. Dr. Joseph was also influenced by Petra Clark-Dufner, who believed in his skills to become a better leader. Dr. Joseph would also like to acknowledge Dr. Mina Mina for supporting his decision to go into pediatric dentistry and helping him achieve that goal.

Dr. Joseph expresses how grateful he is for the continuous support he has received from his family, friends, and faculty. He states, "First I would like to thank my parents and siblings for being there for me since the beginning of my career and always believing that I can do it!" He would like to express gratitude to all of his professors and classmates because he learned not only about dentistry, but also about himself throughout his time at UConn. Additionally he states, "The faculty members are very supportive and want to see all students succeed. I would like to thank all faculty that spent the extra minute in class, preclinic lab or clinic to further enhance my education."

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in health professions: "If you are interested or just looking into the health careers, I would strongly encourage you to expose yourself to as many health care programs as possible. Get involved with your community and participate in health care related events. Additionally, find a mentor and ask them a lot of questions. I would not be here today if it was not for all the mentors who helped guide me along my path to becoming a dentist."

# Congratulations to...

## Fludiona Naka, M.D., M.P.H.

*Physician, Medical Student, Graduate Student, Mentor*



**D**r. Fludiona Naka graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2018 with dual degrees of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) and Master of Public Health (MPH).

After graduating from Bulkeley High School in Hartford in 2007, Dr. Naka enrolled at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. She graduated in 2011, double majoring in neuroscience and biology.

Dr. Naka first became interested in medicine around the age of 10. She recounts her first exposure to medicine, “I was intrigued with medicine and the idea of becoming a physician from observing and admiring the work of Dr. Dulla, the only health care provider in the village of Zharrez, Albania. Captivated by his work, I imagined myself running down the village roads in a white coat, like a superhero to the sick. At that time, however, my dream of becoming a physician was simply a dream because no one in my family had attended college let alone medical school.” Growing up, her family faced various challenges; however, she viewed their move to Hartford as “an excellent opportunity to get a good education and pursue a career in medicine.”

Dr. Naka became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs when she was in high school. She says, “When I started at Bulkeley High School, I was eager to learn more about the health professions so I enrolled at Bulkeley’s Health Professions Academy. One of my teachers there told me about UConn’s Health Career Opportunity Programs. She helped me fill out an application and the rest was history. They helped make possible my dream of becoming a doctor ever since.” Additionally, she states, “The Health Career Opportunity Programs pipeline gave me the opportunity to explore careers in healthcare and further fueled my passion for medicine. I attended my first medical lecture, ran my first meaningful experiment and listened to my first heart-beat thanks to the Health Career Opportunity Programs.” Dr. Naka has participated in various Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI) pipeline programs sponsored by the department, which include: the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program, the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program, the High School Student Research Apprentice Program, the Jumpstart Doctors Academy, and the Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program. Additionally, Dr. Naka has served as a mentor for high school and college

participants of the Aetna HPPI pipeline during her time in medical and graduate school.

Dr. Naka is currently doing a preliminary year in internal medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital. After completing this training, she will continue with three years of dermatology training at Columbia - New York Presbyterian Hospital. Her goal is to specialize in dermatology as her interests include inflammatory and autoimmune skin diseases, and also tele-dermatology. She explains, “I hope to contribute further knowledge to the field of dermatology by doing clinical research on treatment options for diseases such as hidradenitis suppurativa, psoriasis and atopic dermatitis.” Additionally, she states, “I am hoping to expand upon my current research in this area and explore new platforms for the use of teledermatology”. Dr. Naka’s future goal is to provide dermatological care to underserved populations. She believes that everyone should have access to this type of care despite their socioeconomic background. She further explains, “My aspiration is to provide relief to the physical, psychological and social consequences of skin disease through clinical practice and research.”

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. Naka responded, “I would like to recognize Dr. Marja Hurley for her continuous support and encouragement of my journey through medicine. I would also like to thank Dr. Kathy Goldman, my student continuity clinic preceptor of five years for being an incredible mentor, teacher and friend. I feel incredibly fortunate for having Dr. Goldman in my life. Medical school wouldn’t have been the same without her.”

Dr. Naka would like to thank and express her gratitude to the following people: “I want to thank God for all His blessings and my family for being my rock. I am also very grateful to all my teachers and mentors who have believed in me and helped me reach my dreams. I am here today because of the support and encouragement that I received from the Health Career Opportunity Programs teachers, mentors and staff.”

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “Always surround yourself with people who will be your advocates and cheer you on every step of the way. Don’t be afraid to dream big, but make sure to set goals for yourself and work hard to achieve that dream.”

# Congratulations to...

## Franklin Sylvester, M.D.

*Physician, Medical Student, Mentor*



**D**r. Franklin Sylvester graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2018.

Dr. Sylvester grew up in Seymour, Connecticut and attended Hopkins School in New Haven. After graduating from high school in 2010, he attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. A gradu-

ate of the class of 2014, Dr. Sylvester received his Bachelors of Science degree in biology.

While in high school, Dr. Sylvester thought about a career in medicine, but it was not until his college years when he had the opportunity to become an emergency medical technician that he knew that medicine was the career for him. “I knew I wanted a future in healthcare, specifically as a doctor where I could care for patients throughout the entire course of their illness,” Dr. Sylvester explained.

Dr. Sylvester has been involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs since the day of his interview at UConn School of Medicine. He recalls, “I met Dr. Hurley and Dr. Wrensford during my medical school interview day, and knew I wanted to become involved with the Health Career Opportunity Programs as soon as I arrived. The office made it very easy for me to get involved as soon as I started my first year of medicine, and I have enjoyed working with them ever since.” During his time in medical school, he has mentored middle school, high school, and college students in various capacities. He particularly enjoyed being a mentor for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Jumpstart Doctors Academy ninth grade class during his first year of medical school. “I had the opportunity to lead discussions with a motivated group of students who taught me just as much as I taught them. They provided a crucial relief to me from studying during my first year of medical school,” states Dr. Sylvester.

Dr. Sylvester is currently working in the specialty of pediatrics at Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in New York. Over the years he has enjoyed working with pediatric populations as he feels that he has had the most impact with them. He feels that they motivate him as he motivates them. He has volunteered with children and adolescents throughout his time in high school, college, and medical school. He goes on to state, “I am definitely looking forward to providing care

for underserved children during my residency and the years after. I had the chance to care for many of these patients at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center during my third and fourth years of medical school, so I look forward to continuing to work with these populations in the future.”

In addition to his interests in pediatrics, Dr. Sylvester is also considering a fellowship in emergency medicine or hospitalist medicine after residency. Moreover, he would like to provide care at a large academic center where he can serve “a diverse group of patients while also being involved as a teacher and mentor at the medical school and resident levels.”

When asked to recognize individuals who have influenced his career, Dr. Sylvester responded, “Dr. David Henderson has been an instrumental part of my last four years. He has been there from day one and always provided an open door for me to seek advice if I needed it. Additionally, Dr. Antan Alerte has been a strong role model and teacher for me as I attempt to follow in his footsteps in the field of pediatrics.”

In addition to the Health Career Opportunity Programs, Dr. Sylvester would also like to thank and express his gratitude to the following people: “I’m honestly thankful to all my teachers, mentors, and classmates who have gotten me to this point. There were many times when I did not think I would make it, academically and mentally, and these were the people who made sure I continued to push myself to make my dream possible. Finally, my father has also been one of my biggest supports from year to year by keeping me confident and motivated regardless of the situation.”

As a life-long mentor to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions, Dr. Sylvester advises them to use every resource that is given to them. He further states, “I found an entire network of people willing and ready to help me at the Health Career Opportunity Programs office, and they are the reason why I’ve gotten as far as I have. Entering the health field is a long process that is almost impossible to do alone, so I would not hesitate to reach out and find mentors and teachers who are willing to help you attain your goals.”



## **Congratulations to our Mentors and Past Program Participants— UConn Medical, Dental, and Graduate School 2018 Graduates**

Archibald Agyekum-Yamoah, M.S.

Johnny Joseph, D.M.D.

Ayibatari Sikpi, M.D.

Faith Adewusi Ajiboye, D.M.D.

Michelle Llinas, D.M.D.

Franklin Sylvester, M.D.

Valerie Dorcelus, M.D.

David Moise, M.D.

Michael Tassavor, M.D.

Belinda Gaines, D.M.D.

Fludiona Naka, M.D., M.P.H.

John Garcia, M.P.H.

Jeanne Rolle, M.D.

### **Health Career Opportunity Programs Medical/Dental Student 2018 Bridge Mentoring Award**



**Johnny Joseph, D.M.D.**



**Fludiona Naka, M.D., M.P.H.**



**Franklin Sylvester, M.D.**

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs recognized one dental student and two medical students for their continued participation and involvement in the Aetna HPPI Programs with the Bridge Mentoring Award. The 2018 recipients were: Johnny Joseph, D.M.D., pediatric dentistry residency, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts; Fludiona Naka, M.D., M.P.H., internal medicine residency, Yale-New Haven Hospital; and Franklin Sylvester, M.D., pediatrics residency, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, New York City.

# John & 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 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, past president and CEO of the UConn Foundation.

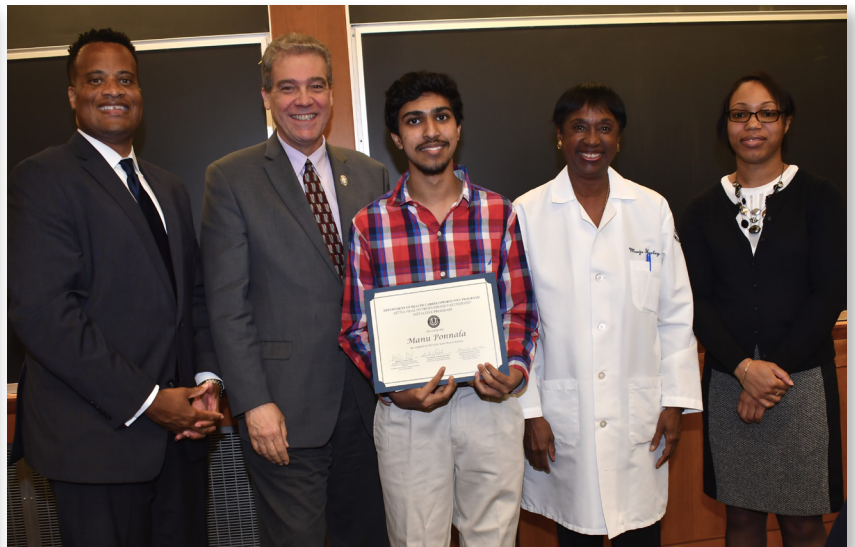


**Drs. John and Valerie Rowe**

The 2018 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships were awarded to Daviel Garcia, Manu Ponnala, and Adnan Sugulleh. 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.



**Dr. Marja Hurley with Rowe Scholarship Recipient, Daviel Garcia**



**From Left: Mr. Jay Williams, State Representative Edwin Vargas, Dr. Marja Hurley, and Dr. Kerry-Ann Stewart with Rowe Scholarship Recipient, Manu Ponnala (center)**

# **Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy Graduating Class of 2018!**



**Nathan Arthur**  
*University of Saint Joseph*



**Hakeem Cross**  
*University of Bridgeport*



**Christina Dunn**  
*East Carolina University*



**Daviel Garcia**  
*University of Connecticut*

**H**ard Work  
**C**areer-Focused  
**O**ptimal Performance  
**P**ersistence



**Ashadel Huggett**  
*United States Air Force*



**Quratulain Khan**  
*Wesleyan University*



**Teeah McDonald**  
*Southern Connecticut State  
University*



**Manu Ponnala**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Adnan Sugulleh**  
*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 the Hartford Stage, and the Junior and Senior Doctors Academies participated in the Biomedical Science Careers Programs' Student Conference in Boston, Massachusetts during the 2017-2018 academic year. The students also visited

Life Star, the Connecticut Historical Society, and the UConn Storrs campus during the summer of 2018. Additionally, the Great Explorations students visited the Institute of Living, the Trinity College campus, the Central Connecticut State University campus and the Connecticut Science Center during the summer of 2018.

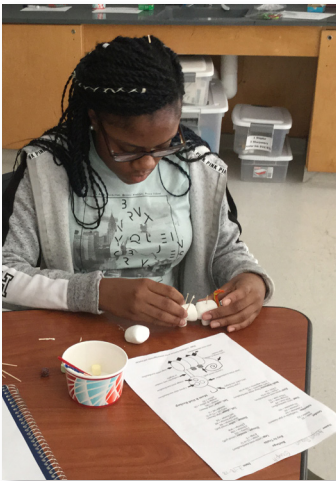
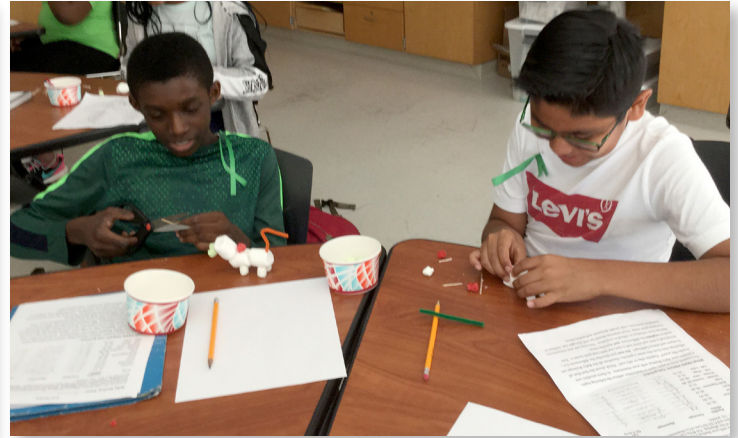




# Great Explorations

Great Explorations 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 81 students who participated in the Great Explorations Program in 2017-2018 were enrolled in one of six middle schools: Jumoke at Hartford Conservatory, Jumoke SMART Academy, Kennelly, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, West Middle School, 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 current eighth-graders. The summer activities are conducted at the Learning Corridor in Hartford, and the Saturday Academy is held at the UConn Health campus. A total of 23 students participated in the 30-week 2017-2018 academic year component of the program. This included 20 of those who participated in the previous summer. During the summer of 2018 a total of 22 students participated in the program.



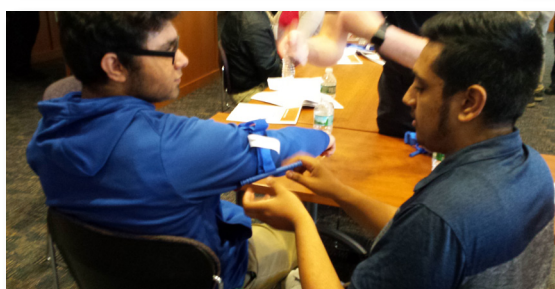
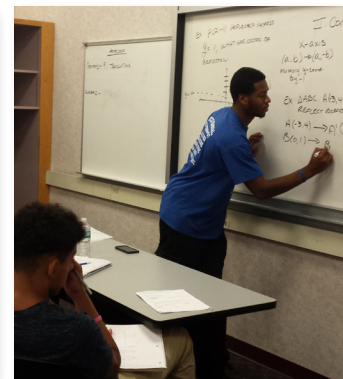


# Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy (Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy) is designed to provide educational opportunities which may otherwise 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 programs 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 UConn Health. 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). Sixty-seven high school students participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy during the 2017-2018 academic year and 62 high school students participated in these programs during the 2018 summer.



## 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 2017-2018 Parental Seminar Series included a college admissions panel which included Mr. Dan Couture, admissions officer, University of Connecticut, Ms. Alexis Haakonsen, director of admissions, Southern Connecticut State University, and Mr. Carlos Soler, assistant director of admissions, Central Connecticut State University. They discussed college

financial aid and the admissions process. Dr. Lenworth Ellis, assistant professor of medicine, UConn Health, presented information on cardiovascular disease. Dr. Christine Crawford, child and adolescent psychiatry resident physician, Massachusetts General Hospital, and UConn School of Medicine graduate, presented on ways to manage anxiety and stress. Additionally, the Parental Seminar Series also included a presentation on sickle cell disease by Dr. William Zempsky, head, Division of Pain and Palliative Medicine, Connecticut Children's Medical Center and professor of pediatrics and nursing at UConn Health.



**Dr. Lenworth Ellis**



**Dr. Christine Crawford**



**Dr. William Zempsky**



## 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. The 2018 seminar series included topics such as molecular biology, pharmacology, cardiology, oncology, and dental medicine. Fifty-six Connecticut high school juniors and seniors participated in the 2018 program.

Participants are selected by their school guidance counselors or science teachers. All students have shown a strong interest in pursuing careers in medicine, dental medicine, or 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](mailto:rollins@uchc.edu).



## Epidemiology

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

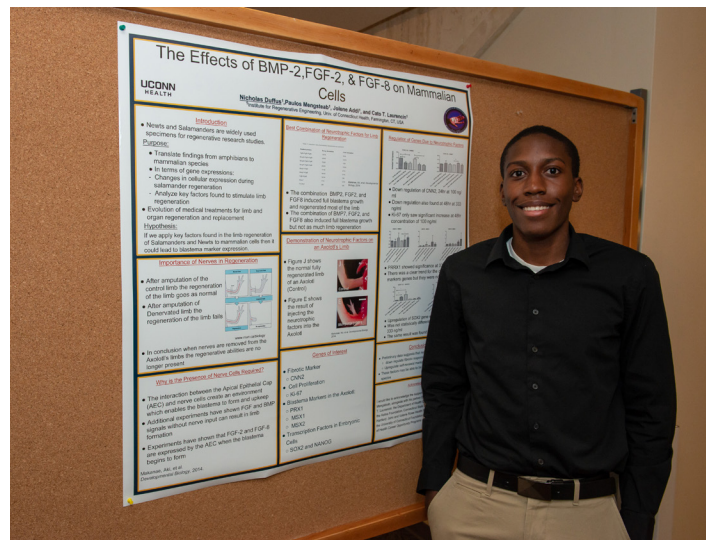
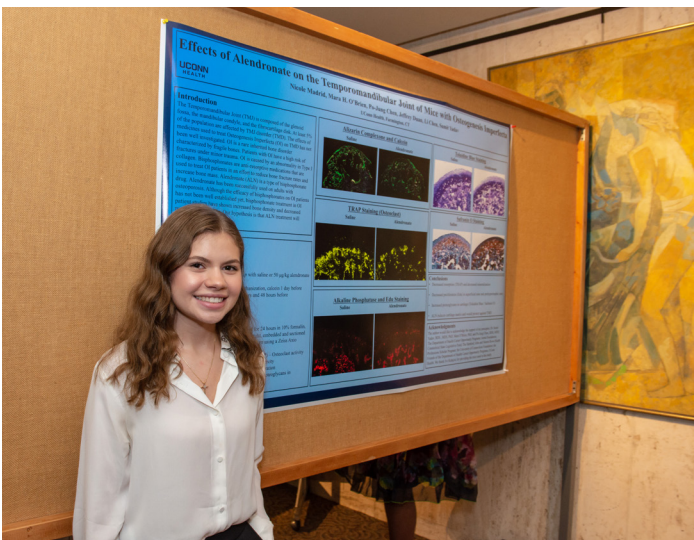
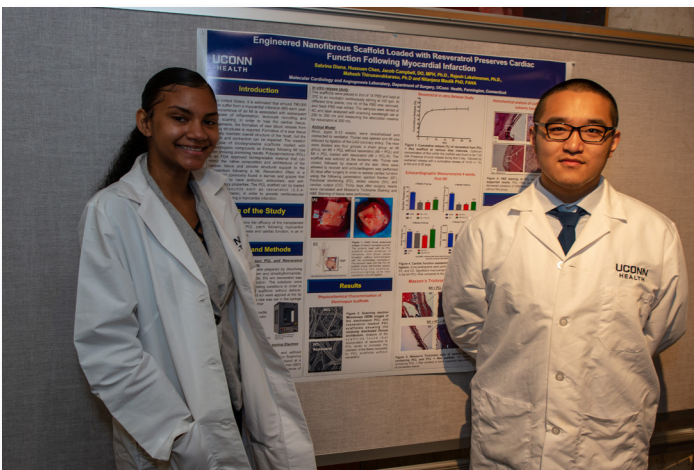
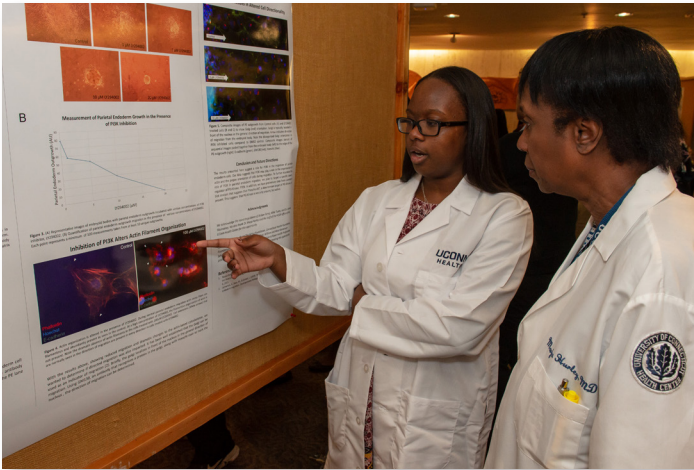
Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health, the program provides an introduction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Twelve 11th- and 12th-graders attended sessions at UConn Health on four occasions and Drs. Wetstone and Stevens visited ASI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



# High School Student Research Apprentice Program

Fourteen students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2018 High School Student Research Apprentice Program. As part of the 2018 program, six students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State University and eight students commuted

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





## 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 Sport and Medical

Sciences Academy, who act as patient instructors. The medical students then receive feedback on their performance from the adolescent patient instructors.

Eleven students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy 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 were 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, nine students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the UConn School of Engineering Bridge Program at Storrs and five 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

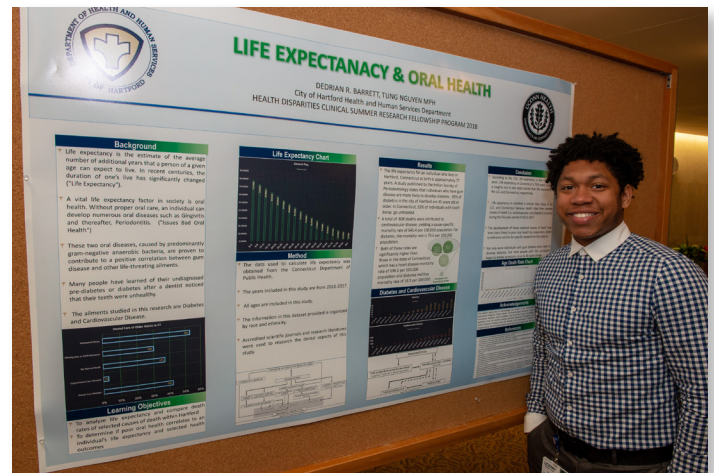
The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a seven-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores, juniors, seniors or recent graduates. In the summer of 2018, 18 students participated in the program. The program is designed to provide the following: 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 2018 program were:

- UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Pappanikou)
- Commission on Equity and Opportunity

- The Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity, Saint Francis Hospital
- Family Life Education
- GoodWorks
- 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 Centers
- Partnership for Strong Communities

The 2018 Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program was made possible by the Connecticut Health Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation.





## 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 47 college students and recent college graduates participated in academic classes, seminars, workshops, test-taking strategies, and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health campus during the six-week summer 2018 program.

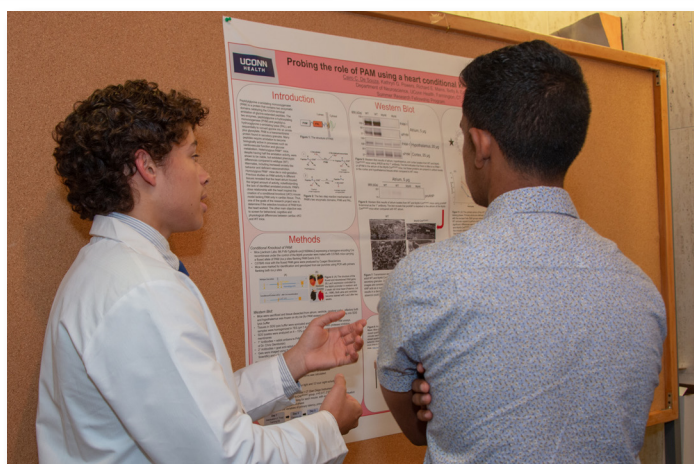




# Summer Research Fellowship Program

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. The 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 to a research project and 8 hours per week to clinical experiences. In the summer of 2018, a total of nine 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.





# Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

The 2018 Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 21, with approximately 108 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, the 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. Jonathan J. Nunez, a UConn School of Medicine Class of 2008 graduate and a physician at Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers, spoke to the students about his personal journey through college and medical school. Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on the Stop the Bleed Initiative presented by Dr. Richard Kamin, assistant professor, Traumatology & Emergency Medicine, 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 representatives from Central Connecticut State University, University of Connecticut, and Western Connecticut State University.

The Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference also included hands-on activities for high school students such as an interview preparation workshop and a blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes demonstration 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, and members of the UConn Student National Medical Association. Additionally, Dr. Michael Goupil, associate professor, Division of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, UConn Health, 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 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. Anton Alerte, associate professor, Pediatrics, UConn Health; Justin De La Guerra, first year medical student; Zenon Kane, first year medical student; Fludiona Naka, fourth year medical student/MPH student, and Klair Lubonja, incoming 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 Jeremy Figueroa-Ortiz, second year dental student, James Flynn, first year dental student, and Syed Saud, first year dental student, held a series of information sessions which included hands-on activities such as taking dental impressions and touring the dental labs at UConn Health.



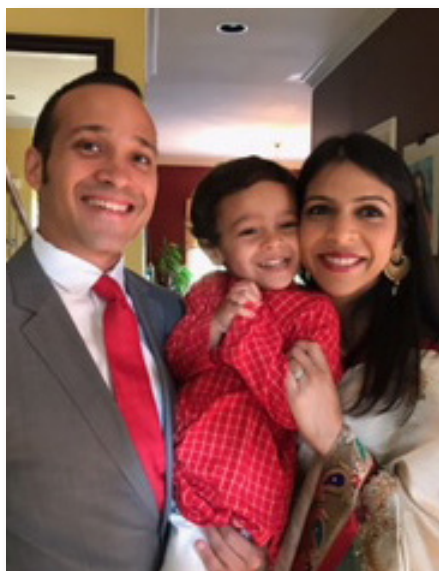
Both the high school and college students had opportunities to listen to personal anecdotes from students currently enrolled at the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, the UConn Graduate School, and the UConn School of Pharmacy. The professional and graduate students shared their progression through their respective schools and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions.



# Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

## Keynote Speaker

Jonathan J. Nunez, M.D., commonly referred to as JJ, was raised in Enfield, Connecticut. He matriculated to the University of Connecticut with an interest in becoming a veterinarian. Fortuitously, he had the opportunity to participate in a number of summer programs through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, which gave him his first exposure to the medical field and UConn Health. It was through these programs that he found mentors and exposure to the health field. His involvement with these programs began when he enrolled at the University of Connecticut in 1999. He participated in the Pre-College Enrichment Program the summer of 1999, the Clinical College Enrichment Program at UConn Health the summer of 2000, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2002, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program MCAT Prep Track the summer of 2003, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program BMS Track the summer of 2004. Dr. Nunez then matriculated at the UConn School of Medicine in 2004 where he enjoyed his experiences serving underserved communities in Hartford, Connecticut. He did his internal medicine residency with the Yale-Primary Care Program. During that time, he explored his love for infectious diseases and addiction medicine. Dr. Nunez had many great teachers, made many great friends, saw many diverse disease presentations, but most importantly, met his wife, Dr. Alia Chisty. He took a break from clinical care for two years and worked as an epidemic intelligence officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in California. During that time, Dr. Nunez investigated outbreaks in California ranging from hantavirus at



Yosemite National Park, mumps on a college campus, and tuberculosis outbreaks amongst migrant farmworkers. He learned a lot about epidemiology and community health during that time and furthered his training by completing an infectious disease fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Through all his



**Dr. Jonathan Nunez receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.**

training, his drive to help serve the underserved always remained and he decided to stay in Philadelphia to work with Philadelphia FIGHT. FIGHT is a health center providing primary care for patients living with HIV. Dr. Nunez is also working with adolescents in providing primary care, curing patients with Hepatitis C, providing transgendered care, and prescribing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent patients from contracting HIV. As an infectious disease physician, Dr. Nunez continues to attend inpatient services at the University of Pennsylvania Health System where he is a clinical assistant professor of medicine. His greatest love is spending time with his family – wife, Dr. Alia Chisty, son, Atticus, and soon to be born bundle of joy. Dr. Nunez loves cooking, gardening, reading, running, and superheroes!! However, most importantly he is always available to help provide advice and mentorship to any level of learners interested in medicine.



# Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2017-2018 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 16, 2018 in Massey 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, Jumpstart, and Junior and Senior Doctors Academies. Remarks were given by Dr. Bruce Liang, dean, UConn School of Medicine, director of the Pat and Jim Cardiology Center, and Ray Neag Distinguished Professor of cardiovascular biology and medicine; and State Representative Edwin Vargas, of Hartford's 6th Assembly District. The keynote speaker was Mr. Jay Williams, president, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, who emphasized strong communities in Greater Hartford, and encouraged the students to continue towards their career goals.

Student reflections were given by Christina Dunn, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and Class of 2018 graduate, Justin Ude, Senior Doctors Academy Class of 2017 graduate

and UConn Class of 2021 candidate, and Stacy-Ann Wallen, Senior Doctors Academy Class of 2015 graduate and UConn Class of 2019 candidate. Mr. Kevin Flynn, a parent, also gave an inspiring speech on the positive effects the programs have had on his daughters and family members who have participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy.



**Keynote speaker, Mr. Jay Williams (left) with Dr. Marja Hurley (center) and Dr. Bruce Liang, dean, UConn School of Medicine (right)**

The evening's festivities also included Special Recognition Awards to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Great Explorations, Jumpstart, and the Junior Doctors Academy participants. The recipients of these awards were: Ciara Solivan and Kwaku Nyame, of Great Explorations; Lacey Dargenio and HughDante Morant of Jumpstart 9; Preeya Diana and Samee Malik of Jumpstart 10; and Virtue Leonard and Arundeeep Singh of the Junior Doctors Academy. Most of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates have chosen to further their education at universities in Connecticut with three of them enrolling at the UConn. Additionally, Daviel Garcia, Manu Ponnala, and Adnan Sugulleh, graduates of the Senior Doctors Academy, were each awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship.



**Doctors Academy graduating class of 2018**

# **Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2018 Program Closing Ceremony Medical Alumni Speaker**

**K**irk Campbell, M.D. graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May of 2000 and completed his residency in internal medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He then did a clinical and research fellowship in nephrology at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Dr. Campbell is an associate professor in the Division of Nephrology, vice chair of Diversity and Inclusion, director of the Nephrology Fellowship Program, and ombudsperson for medical students at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. He is board certified in nephrology. In addition to treating patients with renal



**Dr. Kirk Campbell**

disease, Dr. Campbell leads an NIH-funded research program focused on understanding the mechanism of podocyte injury in the progression of proteinuric kidney diseases. He is a Nephcure Foundation Young Investigator Awardee and a recipient of the Carl Gottschalk Research Scholar Grant from the American Society of Nephrology. Dr. Campbell is a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the National Kidney Foundation serving Greater New York.

# **Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2018 Program Closing Ceremony Keynote Speaker**

**J**ennifer Smith Turner is a native of Boston, Massachusetts graduating from Union College and receiving her Master's Degree from Fairfield University. Ms. Smith Turner is president/CEO of Smith & Associates, LLC, a company specializing in assisting organizations in achieving their strategic and operational potential. She was appointed by former Governor Lowell P. Weicker as a Trustee of the University of Connecticut. During her years as trustee, Ms. Smith Turner chaired the Health Affairs Committee which had policy oversight of the Medical and Dental Schools. She established two endowments in her name, one for scholarships for African-American students at the Medical and Dental Schools and the other for Women's athletics. Later Ms. Smith Turner served on the UConn Foundation Board. She is the retired CEO of the Girls Scouts of Connecticut and had an extensive career in corporate and government sectors over multiple decades. Most notable – an appointment



**Ms. Jennifer Smith Turner**

by former Governor M. Jodi Rell as deputy commissioner of Economic and Community Development, president/CEO of BerkleyCare Network and vice president of W. R. Berkley Corporation, held many executive positions at Aetna Life & Casualty, held numerous management positions at Travelers Insurance, and was appointed director of Personnel and then assistant city manager for the City of Hartford. Recently Ms. Smith Turner was elected to the Board of Newman's Own Foundation and has been a board member on many academic and non-profit boards such as the University of Hartford, The Hartford Stage Company, Hartford Healthcare, Achievement First, Union College and many others. She is a published poet. *Perennial Secrets, Poetry & Prose* was published in 2003 and *Lost and Found, Rhyming Verse Honoring African American Heroes* was published in 2006.



# Health Career Opportunity Programs

## Medical and Dental Students

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs plays an integral role in recruiting diverse students from around the country to the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine and providing support for currently enrolled medical and dental students. The department hosts an annual reception to welcome the first year class. The 2017 Welcome Reception was held on September 25th at UConn Health for the Class of 2021. This was an opportunity for first-year medical and dental students to learn more about department resources, network with each other and upperclassmen, and hear more about research and enrichment opportunities.

Over the four years of academic training, Health Career Opportunity Programs' medical and dental students have the opportunity to participate in seminars based on their interest, engage with the wider community, coordinate hands-on activities for younger students to learn more about health professions, interact with visiting students, faculty, and community leaders, and be mentors or tutors to Aetna HPPI middle, high school, and college students. The department also provides professional development and career planning for medical and dental students through a mentoring program with community physicians and dentists. The monthly newsletter compiled and distributed by the department also keeps students apprised of externships, fellowships, conferences,

scholarships, and residency programs that they are eligible for. Additionally, the UConn chapters of the Student National Medical Association, the Latino Medical Student Association, and the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association continue to be at the forefront of student life at UConn Health. Health Career Opportunity Programs continues to support the professional and cultural awareness events of these organizations and encourages student leadership at the university, regional, and national levels.

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs celebrates the accomplishments of UConn professional and graduate students. Each year a dinner is held in honor of the graduating medical and dental students. The 2018 Graduation Celebration was held on April 22nd in Avon (see uncaptioned photos below). Dr. Marja Hurley and the members of Health Career Opportunity Programs wish continued success to the Class of 2018 as they begin their residency programs and professional training. It is a distinct pleasure each year to invite Health Career Opportunity Programs alums to meet with current students, and it is an honor to see their achievements as they continue to make a positive impact on patient care, education, and research.



UConn School of Dental Medicine graduate Johnny Joseph celebrates with family at commencement. (John Atashian for UConn Health)



Dr. Hurley (center) with UConn School of Medicine 2018 graduates. (John Atashian for UConn Health)



Fludiona Naka at Match Day 2018. (Kristin Wallace/UConn Health Photo)





# Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association and Latino Medical Student Association—UConn Health Chapters Hispanic Heritage Month Event

The UConn Chapter of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association (SNDA/HSDA), in collaboration with the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, continues to celebrate Hispanic heritage and traditions through various activities and programs including an annual event for Hispanic Heritage Month. The

event is a way to show appreciation for the Hispanic culture of the UConn Health community through food, song, dance, and other artistic presentations. Last year's event took place on November 15, 2017, at the UConn Health campus. The event included authentic Hispanic cuisine, raffle prizes, and music and entertainment. Additionally, salsa performances and lessons were a highlight of the evening's activities.





# 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 8, 2017, 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.





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

On February 23, 2018, the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted 36 seventh- and eighth-grade students from Hartford's West Middle School for a day of enrichment at UConn Health focused on the heart and lungs. The enrichment workshops were facilitated by the members of the UConn Chapter of the Student National Medical Association. Throughout the day, the middle school students heard from a panel of current medical students,

participated in a jeopardy game concentrating on the heart and lungs, and learned how to take blood pressure readings. The morning's session also included a visit to the Virtual Anatomy Lab for hands-on activities focused on human organ systems, which was led by Dr. John Harrison, associate professor, Craniofacial Sciences, UConn Health. This event was funded by The Hartford.





# Acknowledgement of Funding Sources

Aetna Foundation

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, Mentors, Faculty, and Staff

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



### Important Dates

**April 6, 2019**

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring  
Conference

**May 15, 2019**

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy Closing  
Ceremony

### Application Deadlines

**March 1, 2019**

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research  
Fellowship Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Summer Research Fellowship Program

**April 1, 2019**

High School Student Research Apprentice Program

**May 1, 2019**

Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program

**May 17, 2019**

Aetna HPPI Great Explorations

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

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