



UCONN HEALTH



*Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs
John & Valerie Rowe Endowment Fund*

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Conference

April 22, 2017

Keynote Speaker

John Zyzo, D.M.D.

John Zyzo, D.M.D. 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 the University of Connecticut 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 DAT Prep Track the summer of 2010, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2011, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program BMS Track 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. He graduated with a B.S. Degree as a Rowe and Honors Scholar May of 2012 and matriculated at the University of Connecticut 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 in Danbury, Connecticut. After finishing his residency in Danbury, Dr. Zyzo hopes to continue practicing dentistry in Connecticut.

