



**Health Career Opportunity Programs  
Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative  
Summer Enrichment Programs**

**Virtual Commencement**

**Friday, July 30, 2021  
12:00pm**

**Commencement Cisco WebEx Access Website**

**Keynote Speaker**

*Chris Murphy*, the junior United States Senator for Connecticut, has dedicated his career to public service as an advocate for Connecticut families. Senator Murphy has been a strong voice in the Senate fighting for job creation, affordable health care, education, sensible gun laws, and a forward-looking foreign policy. As a member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) Senator Murphy has worked to make college more affordable and ensure that our public education system works to serve all students. Senator Murphy also led a bipartisan effort to reform our mental health system, working across the aisle to craft the first comprehensive mental health bill in the Senate in decades. Senator Murphy has laid out a forward-thinking foreign policy vision for the United States. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he has been an outspoken proponent of diplomacy, international human rights and the need for clear-eyed American leadership abroad. Following the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in 2012, Senator Murphy became one of the leading proponents of commonsense reforms to reduce gun violence. He has championed a number of bipartisan bills aimed at expanding background checks and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Murphy has fought to increase investments in Connecticut manufacturing and promote procurement of world-class national defense products made in the state. He has fought to expand American manufacturing and create jobs through his Buy American initiative, which urges the U.S. government to spend taxpayer dollars on American-made goods. Additionally, Senator Murphy has worked in partnership with local city and town leaders to rehabilitate former brownfields and factory sites so that they can be developed into new community spaces and businesses. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Murphy served Connecticut's Fifth Congressional District for three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his time in the House, Murphy worked to improve access to housing for homeless veterans, foster job creation and advocate for affordable healthcare for all Americans. Murphy authored the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act to revitalize housing programs for people with disabilities. The bill was signed into law by the president in 2010. Before getting elected to Congress, Murphy served for eight years in the Connecticut General Assembly where he was the author of the state's historic stem cell investment legislation and the state's workplace smoking ban.



Senator Murphy grew up in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and attended Williams College in Massachusetts. He graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law and practiced real estate and banking law with the firm of Ruben, Johnson & Morgan in Hartford, Connecticut.

He is married to Catherine Holahan, an attorney. They have two young sons, Owen and Rider, and a cat, Ramona.

## Alumni Speaker

**Wayne Lloyd DeBeatham, M.D.**, is a first-generation Jamaican-American and a native of Hartford, Connecticut. Prior to entry to medical school, Dr. DeBeatham earned his Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. During his time there, he actively participated in the Marching Band and Wind Symphony, and was a member of the Nathan Smith Pre-Medical Society. Dr. DeBeatham also served as the undergraduate liaison to the Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association and earned a citation for his work in Comparative Literature. He also actively participated in the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) Conferences in 1996 and 1998, as well as the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) Science Network Program.



Following his graduation in June of 1999, Dr. DeBeatham relocated to Boston, Massachusetts, where he enrolled in post-baccalaureate courses at the Harvard University Extension School. He was also employed as a Research Assistant and Lab Technician, under the direction of Drs. J.D. Coffman and Robert Eberhardt in a Vascular Medicine lab at Boston Medical Center. The following summers, Dr. DeBeatham participated in the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program and the Summer Research Fellowship Program sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs at the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. During that time, he applied, and was subsequently accepted into UConn's Post-Baccalaureate Program. Following successful completion of that program, Dr. DeBeatham

chose to matriculate at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in the fall of 2001.

Academically, Dr. DeBeatham participated in research during the summers and during medical school, spanning observations of microtubule motility in the lab of Dr. Vladimir Rodionov, assessments of professionalism in U.S. medical schools and preparation of an initial draft of a professionalism curriculum under Dr. Lynn Kosowicz and Ms. Karen Harrington, MSW, and assessed the impact of glucocorticoids in osteoblasts over expressing fibroblast growth factor in the lab of Dr. Marja Hurley. As his final project in medical school, Dr. DeBeatham undertook a project assessing student performance and preference in different forms of educational media.

Dr. DeBeatham was an active participant in Surgical Scholars, a surgery interest group. He was active in many areas of school life and community service, serving as a medical student volunteer and manager at numerous clinics in the Greater Hartford area and as a student teacher for the Hartford Health Education Program.

A member of the Student National Medical Association since the day he enrolled, Dr. DeBeatham served as the University of Connecticut chapter president for two years, during which time he co-chaired the New England Region's (Region VII) Annual Medical Education Conference. Following his tenure, Dr. DeBeatham served as the Region VII Community Service Liaison, overseeing and facilitating the community service activities of the member schools in New England.

Locally, Dr. DeBeatham was the catalyst behind several programs, including the first-ever school and community orientation for matriculating medical and dental students of color, a student-initiated contact list for accepted students of color, and recruitment of dual-degree candidates of color. In his time at UConn, he was very active in recruitment, hosting students, conducting interviews, tours, informational sessions, mock interviews, problem-based learning sessions, and assisted in the Annual "Second Look Weekend." He was one of the first two individuals to serve in the position of Student Admissions Assistant and was an unofficial liaison to the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, speaking on behalf of the office at student functions, and was one of the first people that applicants of color saw, providing advice and assistance as needed.

In his latter years at the university and beyond, Dr. DeBeatham expanded his mentorship roles, serving as panelist, keynote speaker, mentor, and Big Brother, candidly speaking about his journey and experiences, and always willing to help someone in need.

In March of 2008, Dr. DeBeatham matched in General Surgery. He completed his intern year at Howard University Hospital, where he had the privilege of learning under the tutelage of Dr. Wayne Frederick and Dr. Lori Wilson and the late Dr. Lasalle Lefall. Following this, he migrated to Atlanta, Georgia, where he studied the impact of HIV-specific factors on the growth of cancer in the lab of Dr. Harvey Bumpers, and completed his PGY-2 year at Grady Memorial Hospital (at the time the only level 1 trauma center in a 100 mile radius) with the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. DeBeatham furthered his education at Lincoln Hospital in New York City, and completed a fellowship in Endourology with Dr. Michael Grasso, III with specialization in innovated approaches to urologic diseases.

Dr. DeBeatham currently lives in Riverdale, New York, and works with Dr. Grasso as a Urologic Hospitalist at Phelps Hospital, in Sleepy Hollow, NY.