

# MEDICAL STUDENT AWARDS

## Congratulations to the 2017-18 AMEF Scholarship Recipients!

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) was pleased to award seven (7) medical students with \$5,000 scholarships each for the 2017-18 school year. Since the inception of AMEF, this foundation arm of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) has awarded more than \$1.5 million in scholarship funds.

The AMEF Board of Directors reviews new applications each year and chooses students based on a number of criteria. Applicants are third- or fourth-year medical students who are, or were, residents of Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage or Summit counties, and who have demonstrated an interest in being involved in organized medicine and community activities. They must also possess leadership skills and demonstrate academic achievement.

Beginning this year, and going forward, the AMEF and the AMCNO will highlight the scholarship recipients in our publications. This year's awardees were asked to provide their photo and short bio, so that our members can learn more about them—such as their interests and future plans.

The AMEF and the AMCNO would like to congratulate these exemplary recipients, and we wish them well in their medical careers.

### **Carl Allamby** *Scholarship Recipient from Northeast Ohio Medical University*

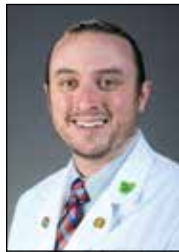


In addition to completing the required coursework for his medical education, Carl Allamby serves on the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) Admissions Committee, Community Advisory Board, in partnership with Cleveland State University,

and participates in the Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, and Internal Medicine interest groups. He is also vice president of NEOMED's local Student National Medical Association chapter. His hobbies and special interests are weight lifting, running, downhill skiing and spending time with his wife and children. He hasn't decided his specialty choice yet, but he intends to enter either emergency medicine or internal medicine. As a future physician, he intends to practice in the Cleveland area. He plans to remain involved in the community by being an advocate for urban city health by promoting and participating in community and

educational events within Northeast Ohio. He also would like to be involved in outreach programs associated with whichever medical facility he is employed. Additionally, he enjoys being a positive influence on children who desire to pursue a career in the medical field. Remaining involved in children's educational experience by visiting and speaking at school events is an important aspect of influencing and cultivating the youth, to which he intends to engage in as his career advances.

### **Stephen McNulty** *Scholarship Recipient from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine*



Stephen McNulty spent a decade as a travel photographer before transitioning to medicine, and although the change in direction may seem unusual, it came to Stephen quite organically. At the age of 25 he was asked to lead the Joseph

Saxton Gallery of Photography in the Canton Arts District, a position that eventually earned for him the title of one of Canton's 50 Most Influential People. At the same time, he was enrolled at Canterbury University in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he was one of a select few students accepted into the biosecurity special endorsement program, a specialized biology degree. For years he bounced between Ohio and New Zealand until the catastrophic earthquake of 2011 in Christchurch. He was downtown when the tremor centered less than 10 miles away claimed hundreds of lives. A month later, when the Tohoku tsunami ravaged northern Japan, he felt a kinship with the survivors and bought a one-way ticket to Tokyo. Eventually he was evacuated when the Fukushima reactors began their uncontrollable meltdown and began an expedition that would last four months through Southeast Asia. Shortly after returning home a close friend was lost to a random act of violence. All of this together precipitated the change to medicine so that he could more directly care for those most in need of aegis. Global health and

humanitarian response are chief among his medical interests, and he hopes to work with relief efforts lending aid to disaster, conflict, famine, and outbreak survivors. To do this, he anticipates training in internal medicine with a focus on infectious disease, trauma, or neurology. The AMEF scholarship will help him focus on primary care. Stephen is a medical student at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

### **Pooja Rambhia** *Scholarship Recipient from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine*



Pooja Rambhia is a member of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine Class of 2019. There, she is co-student leader of the Dermatology Free Clinic at the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland. She is also the associate editor

for the Free Clinic Research Collective, a peer-reviewed journal run by medical students. Pooja is currently pursuing a year of basic science research in the Department of Dermatology at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, exploring the role of early genetic changes in the initiation of high-risk melanoma families, and plans to pursue a medical career in dermatology. Outside of medicine, Pooja enjoys cake decorating and practicing yoga. She is originally from Long Island, New York.

### **Jessica Robertson** *Scholarship Recipient from Northeast Ohio Medical University*



Jessica Robertson is currently a third-year medical student at Northeast Ohio Medical University. She just completed her psychiatry clerkship and is moving into family medicine. Perhaps her most rewarding academic

endeavor has been participating in peer tutoring in both formal and non-formal environments. She thoroughly enjoys assisting others to understand concepts which they find difficult. Her love of teaching and endless quest for information has led her to

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pursue a career in pathology. Pathology is particularly intriguing to her due to the inherent necessity to know a large amount of information about every organ system. This is also a field with ample opportunities for research and education. Her goal is to eventually teach at the medical school level. Despite the time constraints associated with medical school, she has managed to maintain a social life. Her family and friends are important to her and have been an absolute necessity throughout medical school. Her dogs are also a significant diversion; she greatly enjoys spending time with them. They often go to the park, for car rides, and for walks, which helps her decompress and remember the importance of life outside of medical school. Her hobbies include swimming, reading fantasy novels, and watching movies. She loves to travel, and intends to see a good part of the world someday. So far she has been to Jamaica, Mexico, and multiple cities within the United States. The places she intends to see in the near future include Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Japan.

### **Akshay Sharma** *Scholarship Recipient from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine*



Akshay Sharma is finishing his third year at CWRU School of Medicine, and he will be applying for a residency in Neurosurgery this coming fall. Originally from Orange County, California, he finished his undergraduate degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a minor in Government at Harvard University in 2014. He has had the opportunity to engage in a wide array of research within the fields of Neurosurgery and Public Health. He is most proud of his time spent with the Student-Run Free Clinic, an organization devoted to both fostering interprofessional collaboration and bringing much-needed healthcare services to more than 400 underserved patients per year within Cleveland. For Akshay, the field of medicine provides an intersectional insight into the human condition that he believes is rare in many other fields. The *possibility* inherent to a career in medicine excites him the most about his future; he hopes to be an

ardent advocate for all patients, both within and out of the hospital, invested in the promotion of medical knowledge, and leader in the community. He is incredibly grateful for this gift from the AMEF, a reminder of the rich legacy of mentorship and service fundamental to the field.

### **Alexander Ulintz** *Scholarship Recipient from Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU*



Alexander Ulintz is a native of Broadview Heights, and he is currently a third-year medical student at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU. Prior to starting medical school, he spent much of his time as an emergency department (ED) volunteer and EMT. He has always been inspired by the role of the physician in promoting social justice and respected the role of the ED as society's "safety net." However, through his work, he began to understand many emergency visits are the result of larger systemic issues, including the primary care system. As a medical student, he assembled an interdisciplinary "hotspotting" team of medical, dental, nursing, social work and law students that identified frequent utilizers of the healthcare system, understood social factors affecting access to care through a relationship-based model, and developed tailored, patient-centered approaches to improve patient health. For six months, the team worked with six patients at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center in East Cleveland. One particular success story involved a patient who was hospitalized nine times in 18 months for chronic medical conditions and was struggling to find resources to sustain her health when she was not hospitalized. The patient identified barriers to health care and the team helped coordinate social services and transportation to primary care and allied health appointments. During their collaboration, the patient did not require any ED visits/hospitalization and was able to make lifestyle modifications. Moving forward, he will pursue a career that capitalizes on the ED's unique role in American society to identify

systematic ways to assist high-utilizers by connecting them with community resources and into a primary care system. He will be conducting a year-long research project exploring some of these interventions before finishing medical school and applying to a combined Emergency Medicine/Internal Medicine residency.

### **Vanessa Van Doren** *Scholarship Recipient from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine*



Vanessa Van Doren is a medical student at CWRU School of Medicine. She is a student board representative of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), a group of 20,000 physicians advocating for a universal, single payer healthcare system in the United States. She founded a PNHP student chapter at Case Western during her first year of medical school. She was the Health Policy Committee Leader for Case's chapter of the American Medical Student Association and has held leadership positions in Case's student chapters of Doctors for America, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, and White Coats for Black Lives. Vanessa received her BA in anthropology in 2007 from Brown University and worked as a genetics researcher for seven years before deciding to shift her focus to clinical medicine. She is interested in increasing the medical community's involvement in social justice activism. She is applying to internal medicine residencies this year and plans to pursue an infectious disease fellowship.

The AMEF is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2018-19 school year. To learn more, visit the AMCNO website at [www.amcno.org](http://www.amcno.org).

Scholarship funds are primarily raised through the AMEF's annual golf outing. This year's event will be held at the Chagrin Valley Country Club on Monday, August 7. See page 10 for the brochure, and please consider joining us. We welcome your support! ■