

Medical Alumni Association Scholarship

Purpose:

These scholarships are supported by gifts and pledges from UK College of Medicine alumni. The association's goal is be able to provide four scholarships for each class.

Scholarship Recipients:



Bradley Gibson
2013
Mallie, KY

Degree: B.S. in Biology, University of Kentucky

Why I want to become a physician: It appealed to my interests in the hard sciences, and was particularly useful to society. As well as the intellectual satisfaction and the universal benefit to society that becoming a physician entails. Doing something that interests you and is so necessary makes for a very fulfilling career.

Medical school experience: Last summer I diagnosed a patient in the E.D. with Giant Cell Arteritis, a disease entity that makes it difficult to sleep, causing very bad headaches and can interfere with a patient's vision. Confirmatory testing had to be done, but after that this patient could be easily treated with steroids with expected rapid remission of symptoms. This patient had been incorrectly diagnosed by an outside hospital and suffering from for weeks with fever and the inability to sleep at night due to head pain where his head touched his pillow. Though I am going to be a pathologist and will see very few patients (and treat none), the profession is still deeply ingrained with puzzle solving that leads to a diagnosis, which ultimately assists in the treatment of a patient. I am eager to start solving medical puzzles for a living.

The first interaction I had with a patient that I can clearly recall was in my second year of medical school. More than anything, it showed how much I had to learn about taking

detailed history and physicals from a patient and their family! I labored through everything, pausing frequently to think about what I should do or say next. However, they still respected me as a doctor, and I saw that because of my position, they would trust me with serious decisions. Doctors are entrusted with more than we sometimes realize.

The future: Completing a residency in Pathology, and then working overseas to train up pathologists in a place where that part of the medical infrastructure does not exist. I hope to vigorously learn pathology in a residency program in the southeast U.S. I am very excited to start learning this field in depth and contributing.

A note of appreciation: I am able to keep my debt to a minimum. I am going to be able to graduate from med school with only a fraction of the normal debt thanks to this and a couple other scholarships, which means I am freer to pursue career options which might not pay as much early on. Also, it meant that my wife could come home from her nursing job to spend time with her new baby without us having to worry about the otherwise large debt we would have just incurred. I am very grateful they decided to generously sponsor me and help my wife and I through med school. It is very freeing to graduate with minimum debt.