

## **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:**



**Olivia Ringo**  
**2013**  
**Bardstown, KY**

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

**Why I want to become a physician:** I am infatuated with the body, with the thousands of unique types of cells that work together to allow humans to dance ballet, discover how to utilize the sun's energy, or sit quietly on the back porch, making plans to change the world. I am enamored with the complexity of the immune system, the delicate balance of fluid and electrolytes that the kidney constantly adjusts, and the swift and accurate changes enacted to maintain homeostasis. I want to work with bodies. I want to help patients fight cancer, function better, and live more beautifully.

**Medical school experience:** One of my favorite moments in medical school was the day I had the chance to sit at our DaVinci robot for a few minutes. What a beautiful marriage of science, medicine, and human skill! Not only does this machine enable us to work more efficiently in a laparoscopic manner, but we are also able to shorten operative times, minimize the surgical incisions, and give the patient the best chance at a smooth and speedy recovery. I am so excited to see how technology will change medicine during my career.

At the VA I had a patient come in who was one of the kindest, most upbeat people I had ever met. He would sing songs in Cherokee for us when we came to pre-round, and every day he told us how much he appreciated our work and what a good job we were doing. I always find it especially meaningful when patients tell me how much they trust

UK as a hospital, and how they would never go anywhere else. It truly emphasizes the reputation we create with our patients, and how important our interactions and treatments are. His unending gratefulness and appreciativeness of our institution and our medical team reminded me what an impact we have on our patients through healing, but also through caring on a personal level.

**First patient experience:** One of my first interactions with a patient was pretty comical actually. I was interviewing a patient at the VA, and had gone to retrieve some supplies to help him cover one of his wounds better. After he was finished, I walked over to the trashcan to throw away the packaging. Suddenly, it was raining, directly on my head! In my confusion, I kind of froze for a moment, how could it possibly be raining inside? I finally stumbled back, and as I did, the water stopped. I had apparently inadvertently stepped on the floor pedal to turn on an overhead shower in the room. So there I am, soaking wet, in a puddle, trying to pretend like I know what I'm doing. He was very kind about it and told me just to go get dried off and he would call in a nurse. What a long way I have come in a year from those first awkward days of trying to navigate unfamiliar rooms, attempting to remember a newly learned interview and physical exam process, and striving to appear professional and knowledgeable while turning showers on directly on top of my head.

**The future:** I hope to be traveling with an organization like Doctors Without Borders, creating a practice of my own, and teaching in a university.

**A note of appreciation:** This scholarship has been such a wonderful gift. It has enabled me to use my prior college savings to travel the world and pursue medical experiences in places such as Bangkok, Thailand last year, and Zambia in the summer of 2012. When I received the phone call, my mother cried. IT has been an honor and a privilege to attend UKCOM with this scholarship, and my gratefulness is larger than my words can explain. It's been a privileged to be educated in the state of Kentucky and because of this I may feel confident in my career path knowing I have such strong support from people who believe I will be a great physician. This gift makes a huge impact on the students who receive it. Not only is it a tremendous honor, but also an immense relief.