

Chat with Alumni

LGBTQIA+ in Healthcare

Monday, 3/29 6:00-7:00 pm

uconnvtc.webex.com/meet/preadvis

Tanya Miller (UConn '20) is currently completing her Helen Gurley Brown BOLD Fellowship at Science Club for Girls. SCFG is a non-profit organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts that fosters excitement and literacy in STEM for girls from underrepresented communities with free, experiential programs. In 2020, Tanya graduated with her B.S. in Physiology and Neurobiology after completing her Honors Thesis in Dr. Joanne Conover's laboratory and enjoying several years serving on the Rowe Scholars Executive Board. During the summer of 2019, she created a documentary titled "#ILookLikeADoctor" through the BOLD Scholars Program in order to increase the visibility of female physicians and to encourage students from untraditional backgrounds to pursue medicine. This fall, she will begin studying at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing as an MSN Entry into Nursing student. She is excited to become a leader in healthcare that is committed to serving all patients, but especially those who are LGBTQIA+ and/or from low-income communities. She looks forward to returning to the UConn Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Advising Office this May for her 2nd summer in a row of supporting other pre-health students along their journeys!



Alexa Friedman (UConn '18) is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Environmental Health department at Boston University School of Public Health. Her dissertation is examining early-life exposure to multiple metals and children's neurodevelopment. She is interested in understanding not only how exposure during critical windows of development but also how exposure over time, in the form of exposure profiles, is related to children's neurodevelopment. Ultimately, Alexa hopes to conduct research to inform targeted public health interventions. Alexa earned her Bachelor of Science in an individualized major, Human Health Sciences, at the University of Connecticut in 2018 where her undergraduate thesis was on the Gut microbiome influence on infection response in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Being a first-generation student, Alexa is heavily involved in outreach efforts focused on breaking down barriers for students from non-traditional backgrounds during her undergrad and graduate studies.



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Devorah Donnell, MD (UConn '09, UConn Med '15) is a board-certified Family Medicine physician with experience in community organizing, primary care advocacy, and leadership development. As a Connecticut-native, she was born and raised in Manchester, CT, attending UConn as part of the Combined B.S./M.D. Program in Medicine, as a Nutmeg Scholar, Honors Scholar, and member of the first class of Rowe Scholars. During undergraduate studies, she founded the UConn Pre-Medical Society in 2007, and volunteered extensively at the UConn Migrant Farm Worker Medical Clinics. During Medical School, she co-founded the UConn Primary Care Progress (PCP) chapter in 2013, and has remained involved with Primary Care Progress' advocacy at the national level as an Engagement Fellow, Conference Trainer, and Leadership Pathway Lead Coach. Dr. Donnell completed Family Medicine Residency at Tufts Family Medicine Residency at Cambridge Health Alliance, while serving as Resident Director for the MassAFP Board of Directors. After Residency, she returned to CT to practice in the office where she did her medical school community continuity experience. She is passionate about full-spectrum primary care, with reproductive health, procedures, pediatric and adolescent care, and preventative medicine.



Jiana Baker (UConn '20) recently earned her Bachelors of Science in Physiology & Neurobiology this past May. During her time at UConn, she competed for the Track & Field team and served as a member of the executive board for the Rowe Scholars Program. Jiana is currently spending her growth year before medical school working as a research technician at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. In her research, she assists Dr. Eva Liu in studying hypophosphatemic rickets, a genetic disorder that causes abnormally low levels of phosphate in the blood resulting in bone deformation. Jiana is interested in pursuing a career in medicine so that she can dedicate her life to addressing the health disparities that disproportionately affect the Black and LGBTQIA+ communities. Additionally, after years of mentoring and working as a teaching assistant, Jiana aspires to work in academic medicine in order to help minority students succeed in medicine while further diversifying the healthcare field.

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