

# Chat with Alumni

## DISABILITIES IN HEALTHCARE



**Omar Taweh** is a third-year medical student at **UMass Chan Medical School** in the Population, Urban, and Rural Community Health Track. He completed his BS/BA at UConn in 2019 with majors in Physiology & Neurobiology, and Psychology, as well as a minor in Human Rights.

*Before matriculating to UMass, Omar lived in Amman, Jordan studying the **mental health of adolescent refugees on a Fulbright research grant**. He is particularly interested in global health and Arab/immigrant/LGBTQ+ health. In his free time, he volunteers with the Worcester Refugee Assistance Project, enjoys long runs that make his thighs sore, and creates surreal photographic art.*



**Raven Vella** graduated UConn in May of 2020 with a BS in Biophysics and Structural Biology as well as a BA in Spanish. Currently, Raven is a G1 at The **Ohio State School of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program (OSUMC MSTP)**. Raven has completed the first two years of medical school and is now working on her PhD; she will return and finish the last two years of medical school after her doctoral defense in 2026.

*Her work focuses on identifying novel drug candidates and biomarkers for cancer treatment. As an undergraduate, Raven was involved with America Reads, Collegiate Health Service Corps, and undergraduate research. She currently serves as the Social Chair for the OSUMC MSTP and is involved with recruitment to the program. In her free time, Raven enjoys playing sports, hiking, and traveling (especially, to go to museums).*



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**Anusha Attre** (she/her) recently graduated from UConn in May 2022 with a BS in Molecular and Cell Biology. She is a current applicant in the 2023 medical school application cycle and works as a medical assistant at an OB/GYN practice.

*While attending UConn, **Anusha was involved in public health initiatives related to COVID-19** including contact tracing and data analytics, embryology/developmental biology research, microbiology research, leadership on campus, mentorship, and advocacy for students with "invisible illnesses." She's excited to discuss **the role she plays as a disability advocate within academia and her clinical position**, her path as an undergraduate student at Storrs, and her interests in Formula 1 racing and soccer. She is also happy to provide any advice or mentorship as a recent graduate.*



**Carly Malesky** is a second-year medical student at UConn School of Medicine. She completed a dual degree at UConn in 2021 with majors in Physiology & Neurobiology and Psychology.

*During her time at UConn, Carly was involved in Community Outreach and served as program director for Camp Horizons, working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Carly is currently president of the Disabilities Interest Group at UConn Health and serves on CT's Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment Task Force.*

*During her summers, you can find her working at her local ice cream shop, running by the beach, or volunteering at Camp Promise, a weeklong sleep away camp for individuals with neuromuscular disorders.*

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