Chat with Alumni: Pursuing Your Own Path

October 11, 2023 at 7 pm
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Agenda

I. Introduction of Staff

II. Introduction of Alumni

III. Q&A with our Alumni
   ◦ Questions from PPA staff
   ◦ Audience questions--chat box or unmute

IV. Wrap Up
GET TO KNOW US!

PPA Staff

Dr. Sarah Scheidel
Director

Krista Rogers
Assistant Director

Chrissy Gray
Pre-Professional Advisor

Megan Baro
Health Professions Advisor

Tanya Miller
Social Media Coordinator

Sue Ruggiero
Program Assistant

Dr. Keat Sanford
Pre-Medical Advisor
GET TO KNOW US!

HPPAs

Amnya Aggarwal '24
Major: Molecular and Cell Biology
Pre-Medical Track

Sahiti Bhayrawavajhala '24
Major: Chemistry & Molecular and Cell Biology
Minor: Anthropology of Global Health
Pre-Medical Track

Ty Zaccagnini '23
Major: Physiology & Neurobiology
Minor: Neurosciences, Molecular & Cell Biology
Pre-Medical Track

Genesis Rosario '24
Major: Allied Health Sciences
Pre-Medical Track

Emily Strickland '24
Major: MCB & Nutritional Sciences
Pre-Medical Track
Olasubomi ‘Mini’ Ajayi

earned her B.S. in Allied Health Sciences from UConn in 2021, and is now a first-year medical student and a distinguished Health Career Opportunity (HCOP) Scholar at UConn School of Medicine.

★ As an Honors Scholar, she studied the effects of the local food environment on food security status in low-income Hartford neighborhoods. This gave rise to her passion for service and research to address inequities in disadvantaged communities, along with her years as a health educator with the Collegiate Health Services Corps.

★ She is an advocate and mentor for underrepresented minorities pursuing careers in medicine, a past President of the UConn Minority Association for Pre-Med Students (MAPS), and a former National Future Leadership Project Fellow with the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

★ Mini loves the freedom of laughter, the art of connection, and exploring new cultures and foods through travel. You may find her watching or playing basketball when not walking in nature, reading, or journaling.
Darlene Burckson (UConn Graduate School/UConn Health)

Darlene Burckson earned her B.A. in Biological Sciences from UConn in 2022 and began her Ph.D. studies in Biomedical Sciences at UConn Health this fall.

While at UConn, she was involved in many activities and leadership positions, such as being a Senior Resident Assistant for the Women in Math Science and Engineering Learning Community (WiMSE), a member of the BOLD Women’s Leadership Network, a Peer Mentor for the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), and many more.

Darlene’s passion for research led her to apply to the Yale Summer Enrichment Research Experience program (YSERE) after graduation. YSERE is an intensive biomedical sciences research program that gave her experience in how clinical-based research was done. She worked with Dr. Maor Sauler, whose research focuses on understanding the pathobiology of chronic lung diseases.

During her growth year, Darlene continued her work in Dr. Sauler’s lab through a Yale Post Graduate Fellowship. Her project focused on understanding the molecular regulation of alveolar homeostasis.
Additional Resources

- TOMORROW: Storrs Research Connections

- Chat with Alumni series:
  - 11/1: TBD
  - 11/29: TBD

- Husky Health Foundation Workshops:
  - 10/26: Co-Curricular Engagement
  - 11/9: Exploring Health Professions
Visit our website premed.uconn.edu if you want more information about our office.

Email us at premed_predental@uconn.edu at any time with questions.

Follow us on Instagram @uconn_premed_predental