

777 East Park Drive
PO Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820
Fax (717) 558-7818
www.foundationpamedsoc.org



News Release

For questions, contact Patrick Campbell, MS
Phone: (717) 558-7847
Email: pcampbell@pamedsoc.org

December 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Medical Student Receives Montgomery County Medical Society (MCMS) Scholarship

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Montgomery County Medical Society (MCMS) scholarship of \$2,000 was awarded to Megan Raymond by The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Megan currently resides in Pittsburgh and is a first-year medical student at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She is the daughter of Mary Ann Raymond of Horsham, Pa.

Although Megan excelled in science early and had an interest in social behaviors, consideration of a career in medicine came from an internship with a pediatric cardiologist. “Having had no close family or friends in the medical field, I had never truly considered medicine as a career, until I was assigned to shadow Dr. Lee Vogel through my school's gifted support program.”

During her six-week internship, Megan was introduced to a variety of experiences. She sat in on patient consultations and examinations, shadowed rounds in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, learned how to read EKG's and electrocardiograms, and even had the chance to observe an open heart surgery. Admittedly, her interests still go beyond those experiences. “I find the search to diagnose a patient exciting and enjoy the investigative process, from collecting evidence to the satisfaction derived from putting the puzzle together. I also appreciate how medicine requires intense collaboration from many different types of people, because I enjoy working with a team. Most of all, I love the interdisciplinary nature of medicine and the way it combines so many different fields of study, from science to ethics.”

Megan notes that her desire to be a physician came from her interest in social change and how environments shape individuals. As an undergraduate, her interest in the health care system, as well as social determinants of health care, influenced her decision to pursue Urban Studies. Getting involved fueled her passion even more. “I witnessed firsthand the impacts of the social determinants of health as a Community Health Fellow at the Birmingham Free Clinic in Pittsburgh. I connected the underserved patients with social services and served as an advocate as they navigated the healthcare system.”

In addition to witnessing and understanding the social determinants connected to the health care system, Megan identifies the importance of patient and physician relationships. Moreover, the ability to learn and practice compassion. “While I loved learning a systems-based approach, I still admired the one-on-one interactions, as well as the direct interventions that I observed doctors having with patients at the clinic.”

Megan also highlights her abroad experiences. “I went on to study in a health and globalization program and conducted field research in Vietnam, South Africa, and Argentina, which profoundly shaped my worldview. I had a homestay in each country, and divided my time living in rural and urban spaces, traveling to various clinics, hospitals, and NGOs, further adding to the comparative aspect of the program.” She added that these experiences influenced her to give back to her community. “Upon my return home, I interned in the Health Enrollment Unit of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and shadowed in the Child Advocacy Center at the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. I also interned with the Pittsburgh City Council.”

Throughout her education and experiences, Megan has been able to develop a clear focus on how she wants to make a positive impact. Furthermore, she is truly committed to becoming a doctor. “I would like to use my future background and training as a physician to influence and reform health policy. I have a particular interest in child welfare and child advocacy research, and in the future I'd like to find a balance between being a clinician and either academic medicine or hospital administration.”

Through the Foundation, Montgomery County Medical Society will award two \$2,000 scholarships to qualified medical students. The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society is pleased to administer this scholarship for medical students who are residents of Montgomery County. This scholarship is made possible by contributions from Montgomery County Medical Society and physicians.

The Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, sustains the future of medicine in Pennsylvania by providing programs that support medical education, physician health and excellence in practice. It has helped finance medical education for more than 63 years.

For more information about this scholarship, or other scholarship opportunities, please visit www.foundationpamedsoc.org. For questions, contact the Foundation's Student Financial Services Director, Deborah Monko at (717) 558-7854.