

2018-2019 IMPACT REPORT

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The George Washington
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TRANSFORMING LIVES

at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences

School of Medicine
& Health Sciences

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

ART SOBER, MD '68, BA '65

SCHOLARSHIPS PAY IT FORWARD

Professor of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School Former Medical Director of Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital

As a longtime supporter of student scholarships and a former scholarship recipient, Art Sober, MD '68, BA '65, credits the education and financial support he received from GW for giving him the background to succeed.

"I received a wonderful education from GW both as an undergraduate and during medical school. I am so grateful for my education and for the scholarship that I received from the university. The experience helped me develop into who I am today," explains Sober.

Sober pursued medicine because he wanted an interesting career, but also one that helped others. A full-tuition scholarship from GW for his undergraduate degree, followed by the David Perry Steinman Memorial Scholarship during medical school, removed financial barriers and unlocked the path to his future.

"My GW scholarships allowed me the freedom and flexibility to choose a specialty based on my interest,

without being overly burdened by economics," he says. After graduation, he explored a few specialties before selecting dermatology – considered a less financially rewarding field at the time.

More than 50 years after graduating from medical school, Sober practices and teaches dermatology at Harvard Medical School. Determined to help the next generation of GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences physicians have the same flexibility, choice, and success in their careers, Sober reimbursed GW for his medical scholarship nearly 30 years ago. Since then, he has continued to contribute to student scholarships.

"I have been incredibly fortunate in my career, and I want the same for upcoming GW physicians. I give to scholarships because I want medical students to graduate with less debt, so they can enter whatever field they are interested in, regardless of their financial circumstances," says Sober.

Jonathan Minto (left), the 2017 David Perry Steinman Memorial Scholarship.

LISA CHUONG, PA/MPH CLASS OF 2019

SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT CHANGE-MAKERS

Growing up in a Chinese-immigrant community, physician assistant (PA) and master of public health (MPH) student Lisa Chuong witnessed the challenges that people with limited financial resources face when trying to access health care. She describes her home as always filled with friends and neighbors in search of advice from her mother, who had been a physician in China before immigrating to the United States.

"I watched in awe as my mom always greeted people warmly and provided the help she could no matter the hour, even when she was exhausted from working to provide for her five children," says Chuong.

Watching her mother interact with the community, she learned how to empathize with the struggles of others and witnessed firsthand how providing care could transform lives. "My mother really inspired me to live a life of service providing medical care and working to improve health care access for underprivileged communities."

With her passion for health equity and health education, Chuong decided that becoming a PA would best serve her goals. She chose GW because of its excellent reputation, dual-degree program, and proximity to national leaders and experts in public health.

Chuong is the recipient of the Patrisha C. Creevy, PA-C, Scholarship – the first named scholarship created by a PA alumna.

"I am truly honored by the scholarship I have received. It has eased my financial worries and have given me the confidence and drive to obtain my dream – providing health care to those most in need and becoming a true change-maker in the field of public health," she says



DANIEL MARSDEN, MD CLASS OF 2021

SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS

Before beginning his medical career at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), second-year medical student Daniel Marsden spent years as a researcher. As an undergraduate, he conducted medical device and pharmaceutical research and traveled to South Africa to explore public health problems related to the legacy of apartheid. Years later, Marsden returned to South Africa as a Fulbright Scholar to explore the epidemiology of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, but it was his experience as an emergency medical technician that helped him realize that becoming a physician was his true calling.

"I really enjoyed the knowledge I gained from my research, but I always had a feeling that maybe I should be a doctor, so I trained as an EMT to be sure. I developed a passion for treating people who were suffering. When those 16-hour shifts passed by in the blink of an eye, I knew practicing medicine was right for me," he explains.

Marsden says he is proud to be at GW where he can pursue his passion for research and medicine. GW awarded Marsden with one of its first global physician-scientist fellowships, a five-year program enabling him to work with cancer researchers in Madrid as part of his medical education. He is also the recipient of an Adopt-a-Doc Scholarship.

"It means so much to me to have an alumni-supported scholarship. The support helps alleviate some of the financial stress associated with medical school and my research activities so that I can focus on becoming the most knowledgeable and effective physician for my future patients," he says.

In addition to his studies and research, Marsden volunteers with an interdisciplinary group of GW students who run an after-school club in a low-income high school where they conduct educational events on nutrition, sexual health, and physical activity.



GABRIELLE AQUINO, MD CLASS OF 2021

SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT PHYSICIAN-CITIZENS

Inspired by her experience with her own pediatrician, second-year medical student Gabrielle “Gabby” Aquino wanted to be a physician from a young age. By the time she reached high school, she had developed a passion for science, a love of community service, and a deep belief that everyone has value and deserves to be treated with respect.

“Becoming a physician made sense because providing care and honoring someone’s dignity is something I want to do every day,” explains Aquino.

Before pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor, Aquino spent a year as a full-time volunteer in Washington, D.C., helping homeless people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS get access to medical care at GW. It was during this time that Aquino decided to go to the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS).

“I was attracted to SMHS’s mission to produce physician-citizens and to their commitment to engaging with the community. While volunteering, I had the opportunity to see the school’s values in action. It just perfectly aligned with me and my goals as a future physician,” she says.

Aquino is a recipient of multiple scholarships, including the David Perry Steinman Memorial Scholarship.

“Medical school can be really tough. It’s uplifting to know that alumni support me and my dreams. This scholarship inspires me to take full advantage of my education and to continue to give back,” she says.

Despite the rigors of medical school, Aquino serves as vice president of her medical class, volunteers at a Suboxone clinic and at Miriam’s Kitchen, which supports D.C.’s homeless population.





— THANK YOU FOR — TRANSFORMING LIVES

Thank you for making a planned gift to the George Washington University (GW) School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS). Your long-term and foresighted support enables GW to achieve its mission to educate a diverse workforce of tomorrow's leaders in medicine, science, and health sciences.

Central to this mission is attracting and retaining the brightest students and ensuring that they thrive, regardless of their financial circumstances. Your planned gift will enable the university to provide more scholarships to more students far into the future.

The scholarship students profiled here represent the best of our student body and illustrate the impact of your support. Although their stories are different, they all have one thing in common – their gratitude for scholarship, and the financial support, which enables them to pursue their dreams.

We hope you enjoy reading their stories and learning about how your generosity will impact the lives of students today and far into the future.

For more information, contact:

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