

Meet the Rural Health Scholars

CLASS of 2022

Deidre Buckley- SOM (School of Medicine)

I grew up traveling between Boston, where I grew up, and my father's place of birth, a remote farm in Ireland. Last year, I completed my Master's Degree in Gender, Globalization, and Human Rights in Ireland. During the course, we spoke with researchers and administrators in the Irish health system about the challenges faced by patients in rural areas of Ireland, who must travel very far distances for care. I am really interested in learning more about the unique opportunities and challenges of providing care to patients in a rural setting. Learning more about healthcare across settings, outside of my experience growing up in an urban area, is one of the reasons I am so excited to be attending UMMS.



Andrew Cauley- SOM

I grew up in a small town in western Massachusetts and realized the importance of primary care medicine in rural areas. Personally, I think it's important for small towns and communities to have a physician who is well connected with the area and its resources for patients who need help navigating their healthcare. I would like to learn more about how medicine is approached in these areas and how physicians can become more engaged in their communities.



Michelle Paris- SOM

Alexander Schryver- SOM

My parents moved frequently during my childhood, carting me and my siblings around the country as we grew up. I was born outside of San Francisco, CA, and have since lived in many small towns throughout the US, with the last thirteen years being here in Lancaster, MA. My interest in rural medicine stems from my desire to live and work away from the big city environment, and the benefits that this carries both personally and professionally. With a lower concentration of healthcare providers, a rural physician has the potential to have an enormous impact on their patients and community as a whole. Additionally, rural physicians must be more equipped to deal with a wider scope of illnesses, leading to a well-rounded and varied work experience. Additionally, as someone who is



passionate about rock climbing, hiking, and being surrounded by nature, rural medicine has its perks! Currently I am interested in Internal and Emergency Medicine, but am very open to and excited to learn about the many different fields of medicine.

Bronwyn Wada-Gill- SOM, Class 2022

Upon entering medical school, I was seeking opportunities that could teach me about communities outside of my normal expertise and comfort zone. I see RHS as an excellent way to receive an in depth understanding of what it is like to practice medicine in a rural setting. My experiences working with Rural health have thus far included: volunteering for Partners In Health to provide educational funds for community health workers in Rwanda and Peru, as well as helping physicians and public health efforts in Hanoi, Vietnam and Axum, Ethiopia. Through these invaluable experiences I have begun to develop a basic language and understanding of the difficulties related to delivering and receiving medicine in a rural setting. However, I wanted to also learn how to connect with the communities with which I foresaw myself working with one day here in Massachusetts. RHS has provided me those opportunities to begin to network and learn from those who have made rural medicine their life. What I find most compelling about rural medicine is the need for the provider and the community to be creative in the ways they can develop a system of health when access to larger medical institutions of practice are limited. This type of daily problem solving, and the collaborative nature encouraged when working with a smaller community is something I look forward to learning over the next four years while being part of the Rural Health Scholars.

