

Prevention is the best medicine

Even before spending a year at the National Institutes of Health during medical school, it was apparent that Rob Allison (M.D., '06) would build his career around research. He earned a Master's in Public Health prior to arriving in Tallahassee

in 2001 as a member of the College of Medicine's first class. The desire to help from beyond the bedside grew as Allison progressed in his medical education.

"When seeing individual patients, I often felt like we could do a better job for them, but it had to happen on a higher systems level, and that I

wasn't empowered to make those changes," he said.

He credits the Navy for giving him the opportunity. After two years in the internal medicine residency program at Naval Medical Center San Diego, Allison became head of clinical quality for the Navy's medical center and regional health-care system.

He recently graduated from the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is a member of the prevention practice committee with the American College of Preventive Medicine in Washington, D.C.

Soon, Allison will be heading to Cairo, Egypt, to serve as the Centers for Disease Control medical officer for viral hepatitis in collaboration with the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Region for North Africa and the Middle East. He will be working for the CDC Center for Global Health, Global Immunizations Division, Global Elimination and Eradication Branch.

"One major challenge will be assisting high-need, low-income countries in the region with introducing the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose," Allison said. "Other areas I'll be responsible for include rotavirus and invasive bacterial diseases vaccination and surveillance."



