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Capital Medical Society Foundation awards \$45,500 in scholarships to FSU Med students

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According to the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine (JABFM), the current patient panel size for a primary care physician is 1,200 to 1,900 patients per physician.

Data published by the Association of American Medical Colleges in January 2020, predicts that the United States could see an estimated shortage of between 54,100 and 139,000 physicians, including shortfalls in both primary and specialty care, by 2033.

The Capital Medical Society Foundation hopes to encourage medical students at Florida State University College of Medicine as these future physicians prepare to help meet the shortages.

In fulfillment of its mission, “to support the charitable efforts of physicians and others, increase access to healthcare, promote education and serve the community’s health needs through innovative projects that are exemplary, affordable, and dignified,” the Capital Medical Society Foundation awarded scholarships to eight students in their first or second year of medical school at the Florida State University College of Medicine and third and fourth year medical students at the Tallahassee Regional Campus of FSU College of Medicine.

Dr. Frank Walker, Chair of CMS Foundation Scholarship Committee, presented the scholarships to each of the recipients at a special presentation held at the Tallahassee Regional Campus on Oct. 5.

A committee comprised of Capital Medical Society members and Dr. Myra Hurt, FSU College of Medicine Senior Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences and chaired by local pediatrician, Dr. Frank Walker, selected the scholarship recipients.

The following medical students were presented scholarships:

Blaire A. Cote, Class of 2022; Hometown: Tallahassee

Shelby K. De Cardenas, Class of 2022; Hometown: Tallahassee

Jayde A. Finch, Class of 2023; Hometown: Chipley

Brooke A. Hartenstein, Class of 2024; Hometown: Gulf Breeze

Meaghan L. Kane, Class of 2024; Hometown: Pensacola

Christopher T. Pope, Class of 2022; Hometown: Woodstock, Georgia

Charles A. Riley, Class of 2023; Hometown: Marianna

Jodi Wilson, Class of 2023; Hometown: Thomasville, Georgia

“Attending medical school is a very expensive proposition these days. My fellow physicians are pleased and proud to help support medical students, who have not only a financial need, but a desire to stay in Florida and practice medicine in Florida,” said Dr. Walker.

Dr. John Fogarty, Dean of the Florida State University College of Medicine was delighted to participate in the presentation. He was pleased to be able to celebrate the students’ achievement and to thank the Capital Medical Society Foundation for their years’ of scholarship support for their medical students. According to EducationData.org, the average medical school debt is \$215,000 excluding premedical and other educational debt.

The average medical school graduate owes \$241,600 in total student loan debt. The high cost of medical school loans weighs heavily on doctors for many years following graduation. One-third of respondents (34%) expected to take at least 10 years to pay off their student loans.

The Capital Medical Society Foundation Scholarship Fund has been one of the most successful and well-respected programs first established by Capital Medical Society more than 34 years ago. Archived records since 1997 document that Capital Medical Society Foundation has provided scholarships totaling \$698,489 to students in the Program in Medical Science Program, the precursor to FSU College of Medicine, University of Florida medical students and FSU College of Medicine students.

\$681,000 of those scholarships have been awarded to FSU College of Medicine students beginning with those in its inaugural Class of 2005. An additional \$44,000 was awarded this

year. Many of those past recipients are now practicing in Tallahassee and some serve on the Scholarship Committee.

The CMS Foundation Scholarship Committee also awarded an additional \$1,500 scholarship to Christopher Pope from the newly-established Anesthesiology Associates of Tallahassee Scholarship Endowment.

The Capital Medical Society Foundation will host their annual fundraising event, the 2021 Capital Medical Society Foundation Holiday Auction in December to raise funds for medical school scholarships and other programs in fulfillment of its mission.

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