

Medical Scholarship Fund

OF THE MONROE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY



The Park at Allens Creek / 132 Allens Creek Road / Rochester, NY 14618 / 585.473.7573

Fall 2016

Dear Colleague,

Once again I'm writing to you asking for your support for the MCMS medical scholarship. Each year, the committee members and I work together to grant medical school scholarships to those in financial need. You can be a part of making some deserving young medical student's dream come true with your generous gift!

The scholarship committee has worked for over 50 years helping financially deserving medical students from the Rochester area. Through the generosity of Monroe County Medical Society members, the committee continues to grant a substantial scholarship each year. The funds collected through your generous donations go nearly 100% back to the student. The goal of the committee is tremendous as it has to raise nearly \$50,000 a year to keep funding the yearly scholarship! And, we need your help to reach our goal!

I ask you to join me and the committee members in contributing to the scholarship fund sponsored by MCMS. Please consider a tax deductible donation so that the scholarship can continue in the same tradition as it has for years. The cost of medical education, as the cost of everything else, continues to rise and the scholarship fund needs your support to keep this program funded. In anticipation of your donation, on behalf of the committee and especially the students, I'd like to thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Holly Garber, MD
President and Past Medical Scholarship Recipient
Medical Scholarship Fund

2016 Scholarship Recipients

(More information on back of this letter.)



Rebecca Royzer
2016 MCMS Scholarship



David A. Paul, MD, MS
Morton Scholarship

2016 Medical Scholarship Recipients

Submitted by Michael Carafos, MD

This year continues to be a busy and exciting one for the MCMS Scholarship Fund Committee! As a reminder, the Scholarship Committee has worked for about 50 years helping financially deserving medical students from the Rochester area. Each year the Fund helps support four or more active medical students – usually one from each academic year. Those students are awarded the scholarship in their first year and usually continue to receive help all four years. Most, but not all, of those students attend the University of Rochester (UR) School of Medicine. In addition to the regular annual scholarships for medical students, the Committee also oversees the John J. Morton, MD and John H. Morton, MD Memorial Scholarship. John J. Morton was the first Chairman of Surgery at the UR in 1925, and his son John H. Morton was a respected surgeon and teacher at the UR until his death in 2005. The award is endowed by the Morton family. This scholarship is given to one or more deserving and financially needy UR fourth year medical student who will be doing a residency in a surgical field and is committed to community service.

The highly competitive 2016 MCMS Scholarship has been awarded to Rebecca Royzer. Rebecca is a first generation American, having been born two years after her parents emigrated from the Soviet Union. As early as middle school, she was winning national academic awards. Her academic successes continued throughout high school in Brighton, NY, and she was eventually accepted into the highly competitive REMS Program – Rochester Early Medical Scholars – which is the UR equivalent of an 8 year Bachelors/Medical degree program. The REMS Program typically accepts only 10 students per year. She excelled in her first four years at the UR, majoring in American Sign Language, and making the Dean's list every semester. She was eventually inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and graduated *cum laude*. The REMS Program Director noted that Rebecca "has a sharp mind that dissects unfamiliar and complicated topics and is able to synthesize them with ease."

On a personal note, Rebecca has been very active with the large deaf community in the Rochester area. This interest began in 2013 when she shadowed an OB/GYN physician who had a large deaf patient population. The physician was able to communicate through sign language, which made Rebecca begin to understand the need for more health care providers fluent in ASL. This prompted Rebecca to major in ASL, but also to actively work in the deaf community and do research in deaf related health areas. For example, she was the only hearing counselor at a deaf camp in Oregon and she worked as a volunteer with young deaf children in a school in Israel.

As is the case with many physicians, she was touched at an early age by the wonders of medicine. As a young child her mother was diagnosed with breast

cancer. In her eyes, the doctors that took care of her mother were saints. She felt that being able to even touch one family, like her mother's physicians had to hers, was worth the effort and commitment to become a physician. Her early life, educational choices, academic achievements, and commitment to the deaf community make her a unique individual receiving the Medical Scholarship. The Committee is confident that Rebecca will excel in medical school and make the Committee proud of their selection.

The Committee chose Dr. David Paul for this year's Morton Scholarship. David recently began his residency in Neurosurgery at the UR Strong Memorial Hospital.

David is from Michigan and he graduated in 2010 from Hope College, a liberal arts college associated with the Reformed Church of America. He majored in Chemistry, and achieved academic success while in college. Notably, he was the recipient of the Sigma Xi Excellence in Undergraduate Science Research Award. It was during college that he began to have an interest in Neurosurgery after shadowing a Neurosurgeon. Also during college, he was very active in the Hope College Student Congress – which culminated in his position as Student Body President.

During medical school, he continued his interest in Neurosurgical research. He received the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship, which led to two full years of research in patients with pituitary tumors. One of his two mentors throughout those years of research remarked that David was "the strongest neurosurgery applicant coming out of our program this year, and one of the two strongest in my 11 years in Rochester."

On a personal note, David and his wife are active in their church, mentoring youth and volunteering throughout the community. Most notably, he co-founded the Minority Male Leadership Association (MMLA). The MMLA goal is to mentor and promote excellence to minority youth in the Rochester school system who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine. This is accomplished through community workshops, social gatherings, and discussions hosted by the UR. In addition to his work in the MMLA, he performed additional community service for Rochester's under-represented high school students through the URM chapter of the Student National Medical Association.

It is clear from David's long term commitment to Neurosurgery, research, community service, family, and his desire to help minority students fulfill their dreams - he is an excellent recipient of the Morton Scholarship! The Committee is quite confident that he will live up to their expectations.

The Scholarship Committee salutes and congratulates both of this year's well deserving recipients!