



Tia Andrade grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. Before medical school, she studied Psychology at UNC. As an undergrad, Tia was involved with Neuroscience research, the UNC Ballroom Dance Team and was president of Carolina Covenant Gives Back (an organization dedicated to serving the Chapel Hill community). She worked for South Orange Rescue Squad as an EMT-B and Operations Lieutenant for 3 years. Working in EMS exposed Tia to social determinants that effect community health and the frequency of ER visits. Tia is interested in further understanding the costs, solutions and communication involved in providing resources to people with identified social determinants of health, such as unemployment, transportation, and safety etc. As a physician, she hopes to serve patients in an urban setting, with a focus of connecting the underserved to resources that will improve their health and quality of life.

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Franklin Blum was born and raised in Asheville, NC. As an undergraduate at NC State University, he studied Biomedical Engineering, spent several years serving at a medical clinic for low-income and underserved patients, and provided medical services abroad in Ecuador. Spending his pre-baccalaureate years in a rural area, he experienced healthcare disparities first-hand and developed a passion to improve healthcare access and quality of care in rural NC. In his free time, Franklin enjoys playing competitive sports, exploring the outdoors, pursuing musical interests, and spending quality time with family and friends. Following completion of his medical training, he plans to return to Western North Carolina to practice medicine.

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Carolei Bryan is from Anson County, North Carolina. Anson County is a very rural town about an hour east of Charlotte. Growing up in Anson County has definitely shaped Carolei's view on medicine and fuels her passion within the medical field. Her experience growing up in Anson has given her insight into living in an area with very few medical resources and the impact that has on the lifestyle of a community. Carolei's goal is to become a physician back in her hometown of Anson County, integrating herself into the community so she is not only treating ailments, but also addressing sociological factors that affect the health and care of the community. She is also interested in rural medicine and the intersectionality with minorities and children. In her down time, Carolei enjoys reading, singing and dancing, and crafts. She enjoys painting and loves to go to the craft store to buy supplies.

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Jiyum Chang was raised in Christiansburg, VA. She spent her undergraduate experience studying Human Developmental Regenerative Biology, but she found her passions in her extracurricular trying to address the social determinants of health. Her interest in advocacy and health equity through primary care was cemented by her experience as a MedServe fellow in Raleigh, NC. She worked as a community health worker and medical assistant at Advance Community Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center for two years and fell in love with team-based healthcare and fostering longitudinal relationships. She plays volleyball, crochets, and spends the majority of her time with her fat cat, fighting over who gets to use the yarn. Jiyun says she can be a little reserved/quiet sometimes.

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Anna Dodson is originally from the small town of Bunn, North Carolina and it is her dream to return there to practice primary care. She went to UNC Chapel Hill for her undergraduate degree and studied Health Policy and Management through the school of public health. This training has inspired her to approach her future practice with a population health lens. She desires to integrate delivery of medical care, advocacy, and prevention, and support for patient's multitude of health determinants into her work. She loves rural North Carolina and cannot wait to give back to the community that has already provided so much for her. In her free time, she likes to exercise by running and taking barre classes. She also loves to be creative and spend time writing and painting. Specifically, she is currently trying to refine her water coloring skill.

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Ali Eakes is from Mount Olive, North Carolina. She attended Wake Forest University for her undergraduate education where she majored in Religious Studies. She's passionate about addressing the social determinants of health that rural communities face, specifically access to affordable medical care. She's interested in pediatrics and is looking forward to learning more about serving rural communities through the Kenan Scholars Program. During her undergrad studies, she developed a passion for learning more about how individuals' inter-sectional identities influence their lives and how this translates to medical care. She hopes to one day take this a step further and use the information she's learned from her patients to address their needs on a societal level. In her free time, she enjoys reading and going for runs. She also loves to cook and is hoping to work her way through a cookbook this summer!

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Morgan Ferone is a Charlotte native. As a Tarheel born and bred, she went to UNC-CH for her undergraduate studies, graduating with a B.S. in Biology in 2018. It was a summer spent working at the Urban Ministry Center, after her freshman year of college though, that first introduced Morgan to the complex relationship between the medical and social needs of her neighbors in Charlotte. Later, as a volunteer birth doula in Chapel Hill, Morgan witnessed how social factors have a significant and direct impact women's health and birth experiences. Morgan is grateful for the opportunity this summer to work with and learn from the dedicated physicians and community leaders who are already agents of change in Charlotte. As a physician, Morgan aspires to make to women's health education and health care more accessible to everyone in her community.

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Megan Foster was born and raised in Marion, NC in the western part of North Carolina. As one of four siblings, five including a very raucous dachshund Megan loved camping and playing softball in the summers during her youth in Marion. She is still always looking for an excuse to be outside amongst nature and is a self-proclaimed coffee addict, always searching for a cozy coffee shop for studying. Megan fell in love with rural medicine during her time as a certified nurse aide at an assisted living facility in Marion where she took care of patients with dementia who became like a part of her family. Megan is also particularly interested in diabetes and the factors that have contributed to the emerging epidemic in rural areas. She hopes to further explore the implications that social and other factors have on diabetes and the co-morbidities that often ensue. Being outside in the mountains is one of Megan's favorite activities, where she finds joy and solace. She is also happy anytime she is immersed in the aroma of freshly ground beans at a local coffee shop. For Megan, coffee shops can encompass the personality of a community, and she loves seeking out unique places to enjoy coffee, or great places to eat to further expand her palate and explore local gems.

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Crystal Johnson was born and raised in Durham, NC. She attended Harvard University, where she studied evolutionary biology with a minor in global health and health policy. She taught high school biology for three years before coming to UNC School of Medicine. Returning to her home community as an educator allowed her to see the cycle of how social determinants can affect health and how, in turn, health disparities can affect social factors, such as education. This realization, in combination with her growing interest in public health, fueled her passion for medical care of the underserved. Crystal hopes to impact her community through education, socially conscious care and public health research.



Andrew Marburg was born and raised in Wilmington, NC. Before coming to UNC, he worked as an FASD diagnostic team coordinator in Sitka, Alaska and as a medical assistant at a family medicine clinic in Benson, NC. He came to love the pace of life and the closeness of the community in rural places. Andrew speaks Spanish fluently and has some experience working in clinics with migrant farmworkers in Benson, NC. His experiences abroad and in Benson led him to develop a strong interest in migrant and farmworker health. He's particularly interested in finding ways to improve access to care for Spanish-speakers in North Carolina. Andrew grew up around the ocean and loves to surf. He also enjoys playing the guitar and has been teaching himself some banjo lately.



Gabrielle Northey grew up between Gastonia and Charlotte, NC and obtained her BS in Biomedical Engineering from Georgia Tech in Atlanta, GA in 2015. Following undergrad, wanting to further explore the social barriers that impede good health outcomes in urban communities, she spent a year serving in the 2015-2016 Pittsburgh National Health Corps in Pittsburgh, PA. She fulfilled her service term at East Liberty Family Health Care Center where she assisted patients in obtaining health insurance and social service benefits. Gabbie returned to North Carolina in 2016 and completed her MS in Physiology at NC State in 2018 before matriculating into medical school in fall 2018. In working and learning urban underserved communities, Gabbie has become passionate about becoming a physician that partners with patients to overcome barriers and achieve full, rich health. As a Kenan Urban Scholar, she hopes to learn about the vast network of community organizations that support this work in the city that she calls home.



Andrew Romaine grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Before medical school, he studied biology and exercise science at UNC. As an undergrad, Andrew contributed to research on sport-related concussions and participated in clinical care for retired NFL athletes. After college, Andrew moved to Philadelphia to complete a year of service with AmeriCorps. As an insurance specialist at a public health center, he helped patients enroll in coverage through Medicaid, Medicare, and the federal Marketplace. Later, as a navigator, he coordinated care for high-risk patients and facilitated access to community resources. Andrew now volunteers for UNC's Refugee Health Initiative, which serves recently resettled families in the Triangle area. In Charlotte, Andrew aims to further his interest in caring for the urban underserved.



Whitney Schwalm graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Healthcare Studies from the University of Richmond in 2015. After college, she served in CDC's Public Health Associate Program (PHAP), conducting HIV/STD programming and opening a PrEP Clinic (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV prevention). After PHAP, Ms. Schwalm worked in a local health department managing the Syringe Exchange Program of Cabarrus County and providing education on overdose response, infection prevention, sexual and reproductive wellness, crisis support, and linkage to mental health services. Outside of work, Whitney enjoys poetry slams, kayaking, hiking, and yoga. She adores her rescue cat named Moonlight and finds joy in the challenge of being a novice plant enthusiast. Whitney appreciates every opportunity to broaden her perspective through travel and most recently spent a week exploring Medellín, the "City of Eternal Spring" and capital of Colombia's mountainous Antioquia province, as well as Cartagena, a port city on Colombia's Caribbean coast.



Kacey Scott grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, where she first fell in love with the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina. Afterwards, she finished a graduate degree in library science and worked as a medical librarian focusing in obstetrics and gynecology for several years in Asheville before attending medical school. She hopes to continue working in rural healthcare. Her interests include women's health, substance use, harm reduction, and LGBTQIA+ health. She enjoys cooking (especially for other people!), doing arts and crafts (embroidery, cross-stitching, sewing), gardening, hiking, yoga, visiting breweries, trying new food, reading, and spending time with her dog and cat. Additionally, she enjoys watching group sports, but she says she is uncoordinated and can't play them. Music is really important to her, and she loves almost any type of music.



Caleb Smith grew up on a tobacco farm in rural NC near the Virginia border. He came to UNC because of the excellent programs in rural medicine. He hopes to return to an underserved area and practice family medicine. He is passionate about providing excellent preventative care and being an integral part of one of the many great rural communities in NC. While he loves the broad scope of practice in Family Medicine, he is particularly interested in geriatrics and mental health care. He enjoys staying busy! In his spare time, he likes to run with his fiancé and dog, go hiking, and spend time with his family and friends.



Chase Thompson was born and raised in rural, Western North Carolina. She went to North Carolina State University and graduated in 2016 with a major in Integrative Physiology and Neurobiology. While at NCSU, she enjoyed conducting neuroscience research, specifically focusing on her interest in gene and physiological pathways underlying flexible behaviors. Her research helped develop a strong interest in neurocognitive behaviors and passion for psychiatry. After graduation she traveled before moving to Cary, NC where she worked as a medical assistant. Together her experience with neuroscience research and working as a medical assistant, as well as her upbringing in a rural community has inspired her to pursue a medical profession serving in a rural area of North Carolina. Her favorite outdoor activities include scuba diving, snowboarding, kayaking and camping. She enjoys working out, especially using running to explore new areas. Her passion for the outdoors and active adventure easily matches her love for eating delicious foods, cooking, painting and traveling.



Adam Wegener spent his early years in Illinois before moving to rural North Carolina in middle school. As an undergraduate student at North Carolina State University, he majored in Human Biology and minored in Nutrition, and received his Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences from Duke University. Adam is interested in general surgery with Urology, OBGYN, and population health, specifically diet also areas of interest. His goal of becoming a physician stems from his desire to serve others and he is motivated to provide quality care to underserved populations. Outside of medical school, Adam spends time pursuing his hobbies of martial arts, chess, weightlifting, and Ping-Pong.



Tucker Whitesides grew up in Wilmington and hopes to return to eastern North Carolina to practice primary care. He became interested in primary care, specifically, in eastern North Carolina while teaching in Warrenton and observing innovative and long-time practitioners. He saw struggles facing their rural communities but worked alongside them and other eager individuals striving to revitalize them. He studied Mathematics at Davidson College and Operations Research at NC State, so he hopes to enrich patient-centered care by using technology and data to maximize existing resources and purposefully employ new tools. Tucker is engaged (Martha) and they have a golden-doodle (Cotter). They spend their time together walking in the woods or exploring new places. He tends to keep active outside and enjoys running, biking, and tennis in the sun. He enjoys brewing coffee and working with his hands, often tinkering with a bike, his computer, or something around the apartment.

