



Kristel Black was born in Panamá City, Panamá, but grew up in Hope Mills, NC. She went to Duke University and studied Sociology with minors in Education and Chemistry. After graduation, she completed the post-baccalaureate program at the University of Pennsylvania. She has served as a birth doula in Durham, NC and Philadelphia, PA, as well as tutored and mentored students in the Durham Public Schools System. Additionally, she has worked as a cervical cancer research assistant at Duke's Global Women's Health Technologies and as a gynecologic oncology clinical research coordinator at the Hospital of

the University of Pennsylvania. As a Kenan Scholar, Kristel is excited to learn how to better serve urban populations and work in collaboration with these communities to address societal and medical disparities. In her free time, Kristel enjoys traveling, spending time with loved ones, walking, doing yoga, and caring for her house plants.



Khar Dieng-Diatta is a first-generation High

School graduate originally from Dakar, Senegal, West Africa. I work as a Registered nurse for 5 years before starting my journey to medical school. Through my journey in healthcare, I had the opportunity to serve different communities in North Carolina and even in some other countries such as Senegal and Guatemala. Through my professional and volunteer experience, I learned some of the challenges involved in healthcare accessibility. I was allowed to tackle these challenges with my nursing skills. I learned that

practicing medicine requires more than just providing medical treatment. It also demands one to understand and grapple with the economic and social determinants of health in the community. This work inspired my future aspiration to serve in an underserved urban area. In addition, I am a global health scholar. I have been interested in

infectious diseases, especially HIV. I want to create a sustainable and culturally competent program in an urban underserved community.



Darius Johnson graduated from UNC Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health in Spring of 2020 with a BSPH in Health Policy & Management and a BS in Psychology. Following graduation, Darius took a gap year and worked with Phreesia, a healthcare tech company, until the summer of 2021. In this role, he had the opportunity to work with healthcare practices across the nation to improve their administrative processes and patient flow. This experience, along with his previous experiences at Robeson Pediatrics and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, have led to him having a strong interest in the administrative side of healthcare. Growing up in Lumberton, North Carolina, Darius has seen how non-medical drivers of health negatively affected the health outcomes of his family and

the broader community. Therefore, the hope of treating and advocating for individuals who have historically been underserved continues to inspire Darius to pursue medicine. Outside of school, Darius enjoys traveling with his partner, trying new restaurants, and playing tennis.



Alexander Toussaint Casimir was born in Bay Shore, NY to Haitian immigrants. He was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at 4 years old, leading him and his family on a long and confusing journey navigating the United States healthcare system. He moved to Mooresville, NC in 2002, and has called North Carolina his home since. Alex graduated from Davidson College in 2016 with a BS in Psychology with a Concentration in Behavioral Psychology. After being diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy in 2017 from poor diabetes control, he looked to use his background in psychology to better understand the decision making processes for patients managing chronic illnesses. Shortly after earning his masters degree in Physiology from NC State in 2018, Alex and a mentor from NCSU, Dr. Anne McLaughlin, published a paper in Ergonomics in Design examining the behavior of healthcare providers that was influencing diabetic retinopathy screening rates. He is looking to continue this line of

inquiry for both providers and patients to mitigate often overlooked psychological barriers that disproportionately affect minorities and those that hold a lower socioeconomic status. He is married to his wonderful wife, Olivia, and enjoys reading

and writing fiction, playing video games, and learning history and physics (without the math).



Diana Nguyen grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina, though she has been living in the Triangle for the past 11 years. After completing her bachelor's degree in Exercise & Sport Science with a concentration in Athletic Training from UNC Chapel Hill, she worked in an orthopedic surgery clinic assisting patients in many aspects of their care. During this time, she began volunteering with refugee organizations in the area and focused on improving the lives of those facing socioeconomic barriers. She cofounded the Healthy Girl, Healthy World initiative which sought to improve access to feminine hygiene products for adolescent students on the free and reduced-income lunch programs in Wake County. Diana is passionate about understanding and combatting the various challenges that underserved urban populations face. As a Kenan Scholar, she is excited to explore her interests in community programs that promote mental and physical wellness, while working with vulnerable populations, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in and outside of medicine. In her free time, she enjoys weightlifting, traveling, cooking, eating, chess, walks with her dog Nike, and all things Carolina Basketball.