

2018 Urban Scholars



Rim Mehari is of Eritrean descent and was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She and her family moved to the U.S. as political asylees and settled in Apex/Cary, NC. Her experience as a first-generation immigrant sparked her passion for eliminating social and institutional barriers to resources and opportunities. While at Duke University, she studied Psychology and Global Health, engaged in community-based research on childhood nutrition and cognitive development in Kenya, served in disease prevention campaigns in rural Nicaraguan communities, and volunteered to help increase health insurance enrollment in NC. After graduation, she worked at the NIH on a prospective study examining biopsychosocial factors contributing to pediatric obesity. All these formative experiences helped her to focus on eliminating health disparities through a career in medicine. As a Kenan Urban scholar she hopes to deepen her understanding of the factors shaping the lived experiences of the underserved in Charlotte and to learn the collaborative practice of providing quality, complete, and accessible care to the underserved, such that she is ready to meet the needs of her future patients and communities and ultimately help them attain and maintain healthy and well lives.



Rob Short grew up in Concord, North Carolina. Before medical school, he studied psychology and chemistry at UNC. As an undergrad, Rob participated in HIV research and helped form a student organization that connects food-insecure community members to meals and local resources. He now volunteers as a care manager at SHAC and works on a hotspotting team with social work students. Rob is interested in working on patient-centered interdisciplinary teams to address social determinants of health, such as homelessness and transportation. As a physician, he hopes to work for underserved patients in an urban setting, with a particular focus on HIV care and LGBTQIA+ communities.