

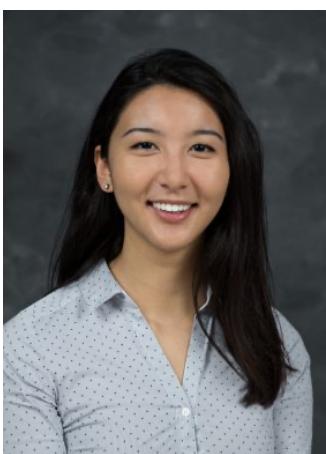


Kelli Avalos grew up in Irvine, Ca but has called The Triangle her home for the past 11 years. After spending four years studying on the sunny lower quad of UNC Chapel Hill, she decided to work at Planned Parenthood. Prior to the onset of medical school, Kelli contributed to research on the treatment of uterine fibroids, the effect of insurance coverage on contraceptive decision making, and mapping contraceptive deserts in North Carolina. As a Kenan Scholar, she hopes to pursue her interests in weight-inclusive health care and reproductive autonomy in addition to gaining a deeper understanding of the needs of her community. Outside of medicine, you can find Kelli glued to her kindle, hiking with her pup, powerlifting, or still trying to finish all the crafts she started at the beginning of the pandemic.



Christina Orantes grew up outside of Los Angeles in California, but moved to Cary, North Carolina for the completion of high school. She graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in 2017 with a degree in Exercise and Sport Science- Fitness Professionals and a minor in Biology. With her family immigrating from El Salvador, she had an early interest in global health and took multiple medical mission trips to Nicaragua to assist rural communities. This solidified her desire not only to become a physician, but to focus her career on serving underserved communities both globally and domestically. Prior to medical school she worked as a Medical Assistant with Wake Dermatology, as Chief Medical Scribe in UNC's OB-GYN department, and as a Facilities and Operations Intern at UNC Campus Recreation. Outside of medicine, she spends her free time reading, exercising, going on adventures and traveling, with a goal of one new country each year. As an Urban Scholar and as a Global Health Concentration Student she is excited to help create new

community programs that promote health literacy and work towards preventative care.



Heather Shams is originally from Beijing, China, and immigrated to America along with her parents in 2001. She went to Washington University in St. Louis to pursue both a mathematics degree and pre-medical sciences; outside of her studies, Heather served the St. Louis community through working at ALIVE, a non-profit dedicated to finding safe housing for survivors of domestic violence, and Heart for the Homeless, an organization dedicated to helping homeless community members integrate back into the healthcare system. During her gap year, she worked on the Bernie Sanders' campaign in South Carolina, advocating for expansion of healthcare access and affordability. These experiences helped Heather realize that as a physician she wants to strive towards eliminating health care

disparities in vulnerable communities. As a Kenan Urban Scholar, Heather is excited to learn how to better serve urban populations, the barriers many of these communities might face

when trying to access care, and what primary care will look like in an urban setting. In her free time, Heather enjoys exercising, eating home-cooked meals, and planning for future travels.



Charlene Brown completed a BA in Religious Studies at UVA in 2008 and obtained a Master of Divinity from Duke in 2011. She has served as a hospital chaplain, a pastor, and as an executive director of a national organization partnering with colleges and universities to serve Black and Brown students. After an experience as a patient, Charlene was exposed to the many challenges that Black and Brown people face in finding healthcare providers who listen and work with them. Charlene believes that her past experiences have given her vision for the work of being a physician that cares about the whole person. For her— faith, service, and empathy intersect

beautifully with the practice of medicine—and she hopes to live and serve in that beautiful intersection. Charlene is passionate about working with vulnerable populations, end of life care, and racial and ethnic disparities in and outside of medicine. In her free time, she enjoys weightlifting, cooperative board games, and biking around Durham with her 3 godsons in tow.



Chevonne Parker was born and raised in Cary, North Carolina. Before medical school, she attended Yale University, where she studied sociology, concentrating in health and society. As an undergraduate in New Haven, Chevonne dedicated her time to researching urban food deserts, serving as an academic mentor and coordinator for an after-school program in a New Haven public school, and providing free blood pressure screenings for her unhoused neighbors in the city's public libraries and surrounding soup kitchens. These experiences reinforced her desire to address these social determinants of health through a career in medicine. As a medical student, Chevonne now serves as one of the leaders for Minority Women in

Medicine, works as a social needs navigator at SHAC, and volunteers at a food distribution site to curb food insecurity in southeast Raleigh. In her free time, Chevonne enjoys singing, reading, and exploring new eateries in the triangle. As a Kenan Urban Scholar, Chevonne hopes to work for and with urban, underserved populations through research, clinical practice, and social advocacy.