

Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center
Jackson State University

2024 SCHOLARS



Anajah Coleman has a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is currently a second-year medical student at William Carey University in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program. Anajah is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Medical Association. She believes this training opportunity will allow her to discover new information that will help those affected by various cardiovascular diseases that plague the nation. As a future physician, she is always searching for a solution to a problem, and it is her goal to not only be a good physician but a knowledgeable one. Anajah plans to utilize the knowledge gained in this program to improve the lives of all patients she encounters. Her curiosity and willingness to broaden her knowledge of cardiovascular diseases are driven by a close relative's experience. Anajah Coleman anticipates focusing on the environmental as well as biological effects that contribute to heart failure.



Dashon Collins obtained a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is pursuing a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. For years, she has been interested in cardiovascular epidemiology. Her interest in cardiovascular health began witnessing her grandmother endure six strokes in four years. As an aspiring cardiovascular epidemiologist, she believes the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center will provide a strong foundation for her career. This training will contribute to meaningful contributions to prevent and control cardiovascular diseases on a population level.



Sarah Ebirim obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Rhode Island College. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral degree program of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University. She has engaged in research, publications, and presentations. Her curiosity for cardiovascular health driven by a personal experience with a close relative. Witnessing her family suffer with a medical illness greatly changed her perspective on life. She plans to apply all knowledge and skills gained to redefine the healthcare system in her ancestral country, Ghana. She anticipates returning to Ghana to help the community who needs quality medical attention. She aspires to be a doctor for underserved populations ensuring they receive the

healthcare they deserve. Throughout the program, she hopes to gain a comprehensive understanding of cardiovascular disease and social and economic factors and barriers that cause health disparities in different subpopulations.



Jacob Gardner obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi with a concentration in Mathematics and minor in Business Administration and economic data analysis. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Science Program in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health at the University of Southern Mississippi. He has gained leadership skills, data analysis concepts, and takes pride in community values. He believes the training opportunity provided by the Daniel Hale William Scholars Program (DHWSP) will be pivotal in his career development and open doors to future opportunities, ensuring helping all individuals to live a better life through his work in biomedical sciences. He believes engaging in the DHWSP would be an excellent platform to execute.



Anthony Hunter, Jr. obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Jackson State University. He has acquired great leadership skills and aspires to someday become a Cardiologist. He is currently studying Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University. Anthony has been interested in research training since undergraduate school and has been seeking to be a part of it. Grateful for such an opportunity, Hunter plans to take the knowledge and skills gained throughout the matriculation of the program and apply them to known research projects and developing his own research opportunities.



Maria Matory is currently enrolled in the Master of Science Program in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a member of various clubs and organizations. Maria believes this training opportunity in cardiovascular research will allow her to develop new concepts and contribute to public health advances that ensure preventative care. While integrating all concepts, principles, and methodologies skills learned from the program and subsequent experience, the program will help her to reduce the risk of adverse health outcomes. Maria's career goal is to pursue public health research on cardiovascular diseases and to become an Epidemiologist, integrating evidence-based interventions to improve public health in marginalized communities with existing health disparities. Her ultimate research focus is to advance her knowledge and strategies of epidemiological study design, using and applying advanced statistical methods, and analyzing critical data to better transform public health efforts within the community.



Don Rubin received a Master of Science degree in Biology in the Department of Medical Sciences at Mississippi College. He is currently a second-year student pursuing a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at William Carey University. Witnessing a family traumatic event and the community suffer from cardiac diseases led him to pursue the path of becoming a medical professional. As an aspiring surgeon, he wants to educate the community and provide quality healthcare to those in need with anticipation of preventing suffering from similar diseases he witnessed his family endure. He feels the Daniel Hale Williams Scholars Program would provide a valuable opportunity to gain future knowledge of cardiovascular diseases and research knowledge and skills necessary for him to achieve his goals.



Asya Walker obtained a Master of Science degree in Bioinformatics from Mississippi Valley State University and currently attends William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She has a lifetime ambition to become a physician and is grateful for the opportunity to fulfill her ultimate goal. She intends to expand her knowledge and venture out from surrounding areas of research to provide quality care to the demographic in rural areas of Mississippi. She believes being knowledgeable of cardiovascular risks will allow her to better serve her patients. Her goal for the training is to ensure the research she engages in flourishes into action across the state. She plans to utilize this opportunity to find ways to reduce cardiovascular risks and disease among women in rural Mississippi. She states, "I want to raise awareness of cardiovascular risk in women and during gestation to help patients make informed decisions on their health moving forward."