EMSP Spotlight: Alina Khurgel

The Emergency Medicine Scholars Program (EMSP) is a funded program for a broad range of fourth year medical students who are under-represented in medicine designed to provide an all-encompassing, month-long educational experience within the UW Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM). Our Emergency Medicine community is committed to representing the rich diversity of the populations we serve.

Alina participated in the EMSP in 2019. A first-generation North American, Alina was born in Canada to two immigrant parents; her father is from Belarus and her mother is from Uganda. After her parents divorced, she moved with her siblings and her father to the US where she completed high school. After high school, Alina travelled to Israel to volunteer where she ended up joining the Israeli Defense Forces.

That is where she met her future husband; the two subsequently moved back to the US where Alina completed her BA in Biology from University of Virginia. While completing her undergraduate degree, Alina had her first child. After undergrad, Alina began attending medical school at Duke University (anticipated completion 2020) where she had her second child. During her time in medical school, Alina traveled to Seattle to research 3D TEE imaging at UW. Alina chose to apply for the EMSP as a result of the time she spent at here: “I was exposed to awesome clinicians doing amazing research.”

Alina recalls that two of the driving forces behind her decision to choose UW EM’s EMSP were our diverse patient population and that our Residency Program’s definition of diversity was not strictly limited to race; many different groups are under-represented in medicine and our EMSP was created to give those students opportunities to practice medicine at the most innovative public university in the US. Alina remembers her time in the EMSP fondly: “the program was exactly what I was looking for and I had a wonderful experience.” She continues: “I felt supported by both faculty and residents; they made me feel welcome.”

We are dedicated to celebrating inclusion and inviting conversation in all aspects of our clinical practice, trainees and community. We are deeply proud to offer participation in the Emergency Medicine Scholars Program to Alina and all those who are under-represented in medicine, including but not limited to ethnic, racial, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and LGBTQ groups.

For more information, please visit the EMSP page on our website or contact Alexis Rush, Manager of Education and Training Programs:

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