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Josué Lily Vidal

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT EXPLORES FAMILY MEDICINE AT EXCELA HEALTH

LATROBE, PA, July 24, 2017 …An aspiring medical student gained experience in family medicine at Excela Health Latrobe Hospital this year as recipient of the Andrew D. Bagby Family Medicine Scholarship. Josué Lily Vidal, a student at Memorial University of Newfoundland; participated in a month-long program, training alongside doctors completing Excela Health’s Family Medicine Residency Program.

The Bagby Scholarship was established by family and friends in memory of first-year resident Dr. Andrew Bagby, who died tragically in November 2001. The scholarship fund has increased substantially in the 14 years the scholarship has been awarded. It is supported by the Bagby family, as well as private donors, to give opportunities to aspiring family medicine physicians. The scholarship is administered by the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation.

Lily Vidal is the third recipient of the scholarship to hail from Memorial University of Newfoundland, where the scholarship’s namesake trained. Having lived in Canada as an exchange student while in his teens, he was so enamored that he returned for university study including a BSc (Hons) in Cellular and Molecular Biology and a Master’s in Public Health, and has made his home there for the past 11 years. His familiarity with St. John’s, the community in which Memorial University is located, as well as a documentary detailing Dr. Bagby’s life, sparked Lily Vidal’s interest in applying for the scholarship.

Lily Vidal comes from a family of health care providers. His father, Gerardo Lily Canales, is a cardiologist in Veracruz, Mexico; his sister, Ana Karen Lily Vidal, is in her first year of a dermatology residency, while his brother, Gerardo Lily Vidal, is finishing his last year of medical school. Lily Vidal credits his mother, the late Ana Edith Vidal Rivera, for inspiring his pursuit of a medical career. A family physician prior to her unexpected death earlier this year, she displayed dedication, passion and genuine interest in her patients and their well-being, offering Lily Vidal his first glimpse of what life as a family physician could be.
A family physician, according to Lily Vidal, is an important link between the community and the health care system. Lily Vidal’s early stages of medical training were marked by an introductory clinical skills course which focused on learning to build strong patient-physician relationships to address health concerns comprehensively. The focus on patient-centered care and the consideration of socioeconomic determinants of health explored in this course reminded Lily Vidal about the important role that a physician plays in pursuing patients’ overall health. He said his first year of medical training also allowed him to appreciate the importance of collaborating with an interprofessional health care team. Lily Vidal’s time at Excela Health will help to strengthen his understanding of the benefits of developing a strong and durable patient-physician relationship, as well as implementing a sound interprofessional approach to health care.