

MOMENTUM



The financial burden of medical school weighs on the minds of potential students across the nation. Last year, 72 percent of The Warren Alpert Medical School's students received some sort of financial aid, and the average loan per student was over \$44,000. This is why scholarship aid is a crucial aspect of the *BrownTogether* campaign.

Financial aid helps to level an incredibly difficult playing field by providing a world-class education to students who are eager to weave

the ethos of Brown into the communities they will serve as physicians. The Brown community has generously supported these future physicians by establishing several new scholarships, and we are grateful for their foresight. They know that the world needs physicians to look at the health of others with compassion, creativity, and purpose. And they know Brown will help the students do just that.

Planning Lets Alumna Pay It Forward



By the time Agueda Hernandez '92 MD'96 heard about Brown's College Hill Society, she was already qualified to be a member. In addition to other forms of giving, Hernandez had included the University in her will, but never officially let

the school know. Once she did, she automatically became a Society member. Hernandez explains why Brown has always been a philanthropic priority for her: "I received financial aid while attending Brown that allowed me to make my childhood dream of becoming a doctor a reality. For that, I am eternally grateful and want to support students so they can live their dream as I do every day."

As chief medical officer and former residency director at Baptist Health Center for the Advancement of Learning in South Florida,

Hernandez knows that studies show anticipated income influences specialty choice and practice setting. Since family medicine yields relatively lower salaries, many students may not choose it. "Family medicine is rewarding and vital, and we need more primary care physicians to help a growing and aging populace," she says. "Unfortunately, the six-figure debt students face after medical school can be overwhelming and cause anxiety." With her planned gift, Hernandez wants to help offset the financial burdens students face so they can pursue a career in family medicine and practice in underserved settings.

Hernandez credits Brown with influencing her in many ways, and her gift reflects that gratitude. "Brown expanded my world view, molded me as a doctor, gave me opportunity, and even informs my parenting skills," she says. "In other words, Brown changed my life." When asked what advice she would give students today, she says, "I invite you to join the circle and help make Brown a reality for others. #EverTrue."

Parental Pride Leads to Support

Carmen Rodriguez '83, P'14 MD'21, P'17 has always kept Brown close to her heart. She has been an active volunteer for more than 30 years, serving as a Corporation trustee, a member of the Brown Alumni Association Board of Governors, and a representative on various leadership councils.



She was delighted that her sons Stefan '14 MD'21 and Christian '17 both chose to attend Brown for their undergraduate careers. And when Stefan decided on The Warren Alpert Medical School, she was doubly thrilled to find it provided the same flexibility, support, and sense of community that Brown's undergraduate college did.

"I didn't know what to expect at first," she says. "But it was soon clear that the ethos of Brown permeates into the Medical School. It's remarkable."

Stefan's time at the Medical School has given Carmen and her husband, Carlos, a deep appreciation for Brown's biomedical research enterprise, medical student service in the community, and the challenges aspiring physicians face throughout their training. As longtime donors to undergraduate financial aid, they jumped at the chance to support medical students through an endowed scholarship.

"The beauty of scholarships is that they don't just change the trajectory of the recipient, but also the trajectory of the next generation," Carmen says.

She hopes that the Rodriguez Family Medical Scholarship will provide the resources needed for students from all backgrounds to consider pursuing medicine.

"I firmly believe that education is the great equalizer," she says. "I hope our scholarship opens up possibilities and aspirations they never thought were possible for them. The only thing I ask is that they pay it forward."

PROGRESS TO GOAL

\$193M

Goal: \$300M