



Update from **Rotary Global Scholar Karen Tai** at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore.

Karen completed a BS/MS four-year program at Yale University graduating Magna Cum Laude majoring in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology.

Karen's scholarship was funded by Rotary Districts 5770, 5830, 5680 and 5810 and the R.C.s of Pasadena, North Shore and Lake Houston Area as well as DAF from Sandy and Bud Forster and a generous contribution from Rotarian Carl Stutts.

Oxford University matched Rotary's scholarship which generated total funding of \$62,000.

At Oxford Karen completed a Master of Science in Global Health Science and Epidemiology and her sponsoring clubs were Lake Houston Area in Houston and Newbury in Oxford.

Karen's update, attached, covers her second six months at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

A few months ago, I started my second year as a medical student at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. It's been a lot of work and I'm pretty much studying day in and day out. At the moment, I'm leaning towards the field of dermatology. There's a lot to be explored and I'm currently conducting research on the intersection between dermatology and psychiatry. Specifically, I'm investigating how childhood eczema affects later mental health outcomes, and trying to identify what groups of children are at the greatest risk of adverse psychological outcomes because of their eczema.

At Hopkins, we have ~2 years where students spend time learning the ins and outs of physiology and also use their remaining spare time to conduct research to advance healthcare and health outcomes. It has been so rewarding to learn about different diseases and conditions, and how as future physicians we can best treat not only the disease, but the patient as well. It's a lot of work, but I'm finding it really rewarding. Here's a picture of my white coat from my white coat ceremony!

Best,

Karen"