

Meet Macharia Carter, MD . . .

For Macharia Carter, the decision to become a pediatrician was natural: she knew she wanted to pursue a career in medicine, and she knew that she wanted to work with children. The path from dream to reality, however, was not nearly as straightforward. Through her participation in the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at the University of Southern Alabama (USA), though, Macharia was able to attend classes and participate in activities that laid the groundwork for what she would encounter in medical school. After graduating from medical school in 2001, Dr. Carter completed her pediatric residency and became Pediatric Chief Resident at the USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital. Today, Dr. Carter is an Instructor of Pediatrics in the Neonatology Section of Baylor College of Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics.



“The BEAR HCOP program provided an invaluable opportunity for me to fulfill my dream . . . I am now a pediatrician enjoying my career.”

About the HCOP Program

- HCOP is authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Centers of Excellence (COE), HCOPs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The USA operates the Biomedical Enrichment and Recruitment HCOP program, which offers an intense and rigorous summer preparatory curriculum in the basic medical sciences, and an additional opportunity for underrepresented students to enter medical school at USA.
- More information on the program activities, such as coursework, clinical rotations, and other activities, is available on the program website:
<http://www.southalabama.edu/com/bear.shtml>

According to Dr. Carter...

The BEAR HCOP program provided an **invaluable opportunity for me to fulfill my dream** and goals concerning my professional life. The summers in which I attended BEAR served as **summers of strengthening and growth** as the classes and clinical rotations **prepared me for the rigors of medical school.**

I am now a pediatrician, enjoying my career and most importantly, **being able to do what I one day dreamed of doing**: working with children on a daily basis in the capacity I desired. The road was often challenging, nights long, but **the rewards are overflowing and abundant!**



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