Meet Jason J. Thomas, MD . . .

As a child growing up in New Jersey, Jason Jovan Thomas dreamed of becoming a pediatrician. Years later, as a biology major at Morehouse College, Jason caught the eye of the late Dr. Thomas Blocker, dean of the junior and senior classes. Noting his volunteer work in the community and with youth groups such as the Boys & Girls Club and the Youth Action Coalition, in Jason’s sophomore year, Dean Blocker recommended him to the Atlanta University Center Linkage program, sponsored by the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). The program allowed Jason to take several first year medical courses to prepare him for the rigors of medical school. Inspired by his mentor, the program, and the need for African-American doctors in underserved communities, Jason enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program at the University of Southern Illinois. With hard work and the help of HCOP, Jason graduated from the Morehouse School of Medicine, where he is currently a practicing pediatrician.

“It was during the HCOP program that my interest in the medical profession was heightened. The HCOP program at Morehouse exposed me to the field of medicine and essentially provided me with the blueprint that helped to solidify my dream of becoming a doctor.”

About the Program

- The Health Careers Opportunity 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 Atlanta University Center (AUC) Linkage program at Morehouse School of Medicine is funded through HCOP.

- The program at Morehouse was established in 1995 to expose minority students to careers in medicine and the health professions.

- The program allows participants the opportunity to acclimate to the medical school environment and to prepare for acceptance into medical school.

- The major objectives of the program are to provide active learning/problem solving laboratories and enrichment activities in verbal reasoning, problem solving and quantitative skills, biology, chemistry, calculus and computer science.

- Students also have access to counseling, mentoring, and other college level services.

For more information, contact: Association of American Medical Colleges, Government Relations
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