

"BMB Majors Achieve 100% Acceptance to the University of Kansas School of Medicine"

By Dr. Phillip E. Klebba

The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics is pleased to report that all of its undergraduate majors who applied to the 2021 Class of the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine were accepted. Matthew Brettmann and Natalie Ost were accepted through the Early Decision program, which is an early application for the top students in Kansas who are committed to only attending KU Med and no other medical school. Mackenzie Wahl was accepted through the Scholars in Rural Health program, which is a pre-admission program offered to students from rural areas in Kansas. Samuel Broll, Tate Gilchrist, and Garrison Olds were accepted through the regular decision program, which is the traditional medical school application process. All six of these seniors participated in the recently developed Medical Biochemistry track, which BMB created in 2013 for its undergraduate students. This curriculum allows biochemistry students who desire a career in medicine or other health-related fields to both prepare for entrance exams and focus their classroom study on subject matter that will comprise their first year of medical, veterinary or nursing school. The Medical Biochemistry curricula contain more intensive foundations for molecular medicine than other majors, with requirements of taking Medical Biochemistry (BIOCH 571), Immunology (BIOL 670), and a full year of graduate level Biochemistry (BIOICH 755 & 765). In this way, the Medical Biochemistry curricula sets its students apart from others in the applicant pool. Admissions committees now focus more and more on applicants with a firm grasp of the molecular underpinnings of human and animal health.

In 2016, the overall acceptance rate for US applicants to in-state medical schools was 60.6%, so this year's K-State BMB acceptance rate of 100% was well above the norm. Besides their heavy involvement in classroom learning, many of these students contributed to ongoing research in BMB laboratories, including those of Dr. Brian Geisbrecht, who commented: "It is quite an achievement these days for any student to get accepted to Medical School in their first attempt, let alone an entire class of students from our Department in that fashion." Dr. Timothy Durrett, the research mentor of Garrison Olds, stated: "This is a particularly good cohort of students. This is the first group I've known since they were freshmen; it's been rewarding to see them mature and succeed." Dr. Phillip E. Klebba, Professor and Head of BMB, summed up our sentiments: "These are outstanding representatives of BMB and K-State!" Congratulations!