

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **East Carolina University News Services**

**Contact:** Kelly Rogers Dilda, Health Sciences Communication,  
[rogerske@ecu.edu](mailto:rogerske@ecu.edu)

**Telephone:** (252) 744-2232

**Photo attached:** ECU Brody Scholar Gaddamanugu Uma

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### **Winston-Salem native receives ECU's most prestigious scholarship**

Greenville, N.C. (9/22/21)—A Winston-Salem native at ECU's Brody School of Medicine has been awarded the university's most prestigious scholarship.

Gaddamanugu Uma has been chosen for the Class of 2025 Brody Scholar award, valued at approximately \$118,000.

As a Brody Scholar, Uma will receive four years of medical school tuition, living expenses and the opportunity to design his or her own summer enrichment program that can include travel abroad. The award will also support community service projects the students may undertake while in medical school.

Since the program began in 1983, 150 students have received scholarships. About 76 percent of Brody Scholars remain in North Carolina to practice, and the majority of those stay in eastern North Carolina.

Uma, the daughter of Prasad and Shobha Gaddamanugu of Winston-Salem graduated from Ronald Reagan High School and has seen firsthand the power of passion and knowledge in medical education.

She volunteered for two summers with a community development nonprofit in rural India, teaching reproductive health assessments and menstrual hygiene workshops for women.

"The following summer, I helped open the village's first women's health clinic, and assisted in training a team of community health outreach workers," she said.

Uma also served as a doula at UNC Hospitals, where she also worked to create a training curriculum to help providers work with victims of sexual violence using a trauma-informed

approach to care. During graduate school, she worked as an anesthesia assistant at Triangle Implant Center, an oral surgical clinic in Durham.

She earned a degree in public health from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2018 and a master's in physiology from North Carolina State University.

“My perspectives on medicine were shaped by my undergraduate public health curriculum, where I developed a passion for combatting maternal and child health disparities,” she said. “My experiences as a volunteer doula and health intern in rural India shed light on how providers can sustainably advance health equity through socially contextualized, accessible patient care. As a physician, I realized I could accomplish my goals and integrate my passion for women’s health and health promotion into daily clinical practice.”

Uma is eager to begin her medical school journey with specific goals in mind.

“In medical school, I hope to learn how to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care while exploring how various factors, including social determinants, contribute to the evolution of health and disease,” she said.

Being a Brody Scholar, she added, brings a level of expectation for her accomplishments and impact over the next four years.

“To me, being a Brody Scholar means that a strong community of compassionate, service-driven providers believe in my ability to succeed as a physician,” she said. “This opportunity has given me the confidence to pursue a medical career that is solely dedicated to improving the health of underserved communities without being constrained by the financial burden of medical school.”

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### **About East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine**

The Brody School of Medicine at ECU was founded more than 40 years ago to increase the supply of primary care physicians serving North Carolina, improve the health status of eastern North Carolina and enhance access of minority and disadvantaged students to a medical education. Each year, the school graduates close to 86 medical students and welcomes about 125 residents and fellows. Nearly half of Brody’s more than 2,400 graduates practice in N.C., many in rural and underserved areas. Brody consistently ranks in the Top 10% of U.S. medical schools for graduating physicians who practice in-state, practice primary care and practice in rural and underserved areas.