

WesternU

College of Podiatric Medicine



Meet Rahul

2023 Recipient of the
Bako Medical Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship



Bako Medical Education Foundation,

Thank you so much for providing the Bako Medical Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship to Western University of Health Sciences. My name is Rahul Natarajan and I was chosen by my school as a recipient of this award.

My hometown is La Palma, CA, where I was raised the majority of my life. I graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a B.S. in Biological Sciences.

I chose to attend WesternU's College of Podiatric Medicine for my doctorate because the school provided integrated courses to develop physicians and healthcare professionals first before those of their chosen specialty.

I am a Student Ambassador for WesternU, meaning I help spread awareness of the school and field to prospective students looking to apply to WesternU CPM. I also mentor underclassmen and help with community service projects organized by the school. I am part of multiple student chapter clubs related to podiatry.

My future plans are to join a multi-specialty or orthopedics group as I would like to experience and help with all aspects podiatry has to offer. I do have an inclination towards trauma though and hope to fixate foot and ankle fractures frequently in the future.

This scholarship impacts me by showing me that I was part of the select few who were thought to be worthy of recognition. I will use the provided funds to help pay my loans so that I may focus more on being the best foot and ankle surgeon I can be.

Sincerely,

Rahul Natarajan
DPM Class of 2023

Learn More About
Rahul Natarajan, DPM 2023
\$1,000 Award Recipient



Hometown:	La Palma, CA
Undergrad:	University of California, Irvine
Degrees:	Biological Sciences
Hobbies/Interests:	Collecting state quarters, playing tennis
Previous Career/Job:	Retail, tutoring
Associations/Clubs:	SALT ambassador, ACFAS secretary 2020-2021, Podiatric Research Club, AAPSM, ACFAOM, SCPMSA

What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path? The desire to take care of others inspired me to go into health care. Podiatry is a small field and foot care is often overlooked. I joined this field because I want to make a difference in my community. I also like learning new things even if it's outside my scope of practice, hence being in a field with lifelong learning will help me constantly improve to better help my patients.

Why did you choose to attend WesternU? I chose WesternU because of its incorporation with the DO class. The school teaches you how to be a physician first before being a specialist in foot and ankle surgery. Another reason is because of its proximity to my family. My support system includes my family, and I believe I would not have made it this far into my career without them.

In what activities are you involved at WesternU? I am a Student Ambassador for the College of Podiatric Medicine (CPM) at WesternU, meaning I help spread awareness of the school and field to prospective students looking to apply to WesternU CPM. I also mentor underclassmen and help with community service projects.

What is the best thing about being a WesternU student? The best thing about being a WesternU student would have to be its integration with many different health care fields. As the University has different colleges of health care and a class to work together, I have made contacts that I may have not been able to acquire on my own. I have learned from students in other fields as well which helped me broaden my perspectives of health care and network of communication.

What is your proudest accomplishment? My proudest accomplishment would have to be residency match paired with graduation. It has been a long four years of medical school. Not everyone was able to finish on time and some even left. I was able to make it this far thanks to the support my school, friends, and family all gave me. The school gave me confidence to proudly call myself a doctor once I graduate soon.

How will this scholarship impact you? This scholarship will impact me by showing me that I was part of the select few who were thought to be worthy of recognition. I will use the funds to help pay my loans so that I may focus more on being the best foot and ankle surgeon I can be.

What are your future career plans/goals? My future plans are to join a multi-specialty or orthopedics group as I would like to experience and help with all aspects podiatry has to offer. I do have an inclination towards trauma though and hope to fixate foot and ankle fractures frequently in the future.

What impact are you hoping to make on the community you serve? I am hoping to show the importance of foot care to my community. Foot care is often overlooked, especially in the diabetic population which is why there are so many amputations. I am hoping to provide lectures to youth and my community about the importance of foot care, as well as awareness of podiatric medicine, once I am an established attending physician.

Your generosity makes an Impact. It changes lives for the better, and it creates health equity for all, locally and nationally.



On behalf of WesternU faculty, staff, administrators, students, and the communities who you help flourish...

THANK YOU.

alumnifriends.westernu.edu