**Susana Londono**

**Barry University**

**School of Podiatric Medicine**

The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine awarded its inaugural Bako Medical Education Foundation Scholarship to Susana Londono. Barry shared that for the 2021-22 academic year, the Scholarship committee had to decide among five exceptional candidates for the BMEF scholarship; however, Susana's essay attesting to her community service commitment was found to be the most compelling.

Her work over a period of six years in Cartagena, Columbia at the Fundevida Foundation center helped support this NGO’s mission of helping children and teenagers with cancer by providing housing and funding for treatment. Her work included comforting patients and their families, including by arranging a holiday celebration, as well as a clothing and toy drive. In addition, Susana volunteered at the Palmetto Bay Medical Center and the Jackson South Community Hospital, both in Miami, FL, which provided her with opportunities to serve patients by translating technical medical information regarding treatments, procedures, medications, diets, and physician's instructions to colloquial terms to increase patient understanding and compliance, while assisting physicians with various medical procedures including skin biopsies.

Susana is a first generation immigrant to the USA who came with very little of material means. In conveying her appreciation for the scholarship, she expressed her gratitude, saying “You are investing in my future. As a DPM/MBA student, my goal is to ensure that society overall gets a return on this investment. I will do so by continuing to excel and stiving to be the best podiatrist that I can.”

Graduating at the top of her class, Susana maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA enrolled in a dual program where she received her Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. After graduation, Dr. Londono commenced her residency at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, TX.