

**Bethel Desta**

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**EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS**

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**University of Texas Medical Branch, John Sealy School of Medicine – Galveston, TX** July 2022–Present  
*Physician Healer Scholarly Concentration (in progress)*  
*MD Candidate, anticipated completion 2026*

**The University of Texas at Austin – Austin, TX** August 2016–May 2020  
*Bachelor of Arts in Health & Society*  
*Pre-Health Professions Certificate*

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**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**Research Assistant** September 2023- present  
*Advisor: Erik Rytting, Ph.D., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

- Develop improved drug delivery strategies, with emphasis on drug and nanoparticle transport across the placenta to address the needs of pregnant women requiring medical therapy or diagnostics.

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**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

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**Presentations**

National Presentations

- **Desta, B.** Chung, C. Sheriff, N. Campo-Engelstein, L. “Identifying the Cultural and Health Implications of Long-term use of Chemical Hair Straighteners in Black Women” *Oral Presentation for the New England Science Symposium at Harvard Medical School.* April 1, 2023

Regional Presentations

- Gengi Kleto BS, Shangyi Fu BS, **Bethel Desta BA**, Zachrieh Alhaj BS, BA, Vivian Rojas BS, Samsudeen Iyama BS, MS, Karina Chowdhury BS, MPH, Precious Anih BS, Michel Adeniran BS, Delayne Coleman BS, Ida Orengo MD. “Exploring the Potential of Olive Oil Mixtures in Dermal Reconstruction: A Systematic Review” *Poster Presentation at the Texas Dermatological Society Meeting.* September 23, 2023.
- **Desta, B.** Obanigba, G. Chellappan, B. Linfante, A. White, K. Goodwin, B. “A Collision of Melanocytic Matricoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma.” *Poster Presentation at the Texas Dermatological Society Meeting.* September 23, 2022.

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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**Galveston Community Refrigerator** August 2023-present  
*Active Volunteer*

- Restock the refrigerator with perishable and non-perishable food items and perform regular maintenance of the fridge location

**Ronald McDonald House of Galveston** July 2023

- Participated in an arts and crafts event for children at UTMB and Shriner’s Hospital

**UTMB SNMA Clothing Drive** March 2023

- Collected women’s clothing to donate to the ADA Women’s shelter

**Access Care of Coastal Texas Lunch** March 2023

- Partnered with ACCT to cook meals for families living with HIV

**St. Vincent's Student-Run Free Clinic**

February 2023- present

*Active Volunteer*

- Offer free primary and specialty care to uninsured people in the Galveston community
- Participated in a health fair that serviced underserved populations in Galveston

**HONORS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS**

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AHEC Scholar	July 2023
Provost Scholarship	July 2022
Presidential Scholars	January 2019
University Honors	Spring 2019
University Honors	Fall 2018

**LEADERSHIP**

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**Discover Medicine Committee**

October 2023

- Part of the committee overseeing the planning of SNMA's event, Discover Medicine, a pre-medical conference aimed at inspiring, educating, and mentoring pre-medical students who are underrepresented in the field of medicine.
- Helped raise over \$200 in funding and coordinated logistics for the event
- Participated in student panels discussing MCAT strategies and the medical school application process

**Skin of Color Dermatological Society**

July 2023-present

*Outreach Chair*

- Contact skin care companies for sponsorships and donations for the organization
- Connect with other organizations on campus to collaborate on events
- Connect members with current dermatology opportunities

**UTMB Student Ambassador Program**

June 2023-present

*Student Ambassador*

- Participate in "Interview Day" for the School of Medicine Admissions Committee
- Give presentations to applicants to highlight UTMB's dedication to diversity, inclusion, and equity
- Lead campus tours for prospective students

**Dermatology Interest Group**

April 2023-present

*Melanoma Walk Chair*

- Plan and execute the annual Melanoma Walk in collaboration with the AIM at Melanoma Foundation to raise money and awareness for melanoma

**UTMB Connect**

February 2023-present

*Connect Mentor*

- Engaged in science-related activities weekly with elementary school students
- Exposed students to careers in STEM and provided mentorship

*Site Coordinator*

September 2023-present

- On-site contact at GISD grounds during mentorship workshop days
- Ensures that workshop activity supplies and instructions are accounted for and brought to the school
- Prepare all mentors for the workshop activities in advance and record attendance

**UTMB Student National Medical Association**

February 2023-present

*Treasurer*

- Budgeting for the year and discussing plans to fundraise
- Submitted quarterly reports to the national chapter
- Managed all monetary transactions across banking platforms

**HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE**

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**Preceptorships**

- **Physician Healer Preceptorship**, Cara Geary MD, PHD

- A concentration that assists students as they develop their professional identity as doctors and healers. The training focuses on self-awareness, self-reflection, interpersonal communication skills, self-care, and work-life balance.
- **St. Vincent's Summer Preceptorship**
  - Successfully completed St. Vincent's Summer Preceptorship, which required weekly volunteering at the clinic and participation in workshops

## FELLOWSHIPS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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**UTMB OBGYN Research Interest Group** October 2022- present

*Active member*

- Collaborate with medical students and physicians interested in OB-GYN research

**UTMB American Medical Women's Association** September 2022- present

*Active Member*

- Participate in events that aim to advance women in medicine and increase mentorship

**UTMB Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group** July 2022- present

*Active Member*

- Network with diverse OB-GYN physicians and medical students interested in the field

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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American Medical Association

Student National Medical Association

Skin of Color Society

American Medical Women's Association

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Smith Clinic, Houston, TX** May 2021 – March 2022

*COVID Pre-Screener*

- Responsible for initial greeting and providing direct patient, visitor, volunteer, vendor, and employee interaction of screening for specified symptoms of COVID using supplied equipment and following protocols set by the hospital.

**Robin Healthcare Houston, TX** August 2020- May 2021

*Lead Medical Scribe*

- Reconciled the schedule of the clinic every day
- Captured all encounters, matched them to the patients, and completed all doctor notes
- Assisted in training new scribes with proper note-taking and using the EMR

**Robin Healthcare, Houston, TX** May 2020- August 2020

*Patient Intake Calling*

- Worked remotely for Robin Healthcare as a patient intake caller
- Contacted many patients on behalf of the clinic to remind them of their appointments and helped them fill out the patient intake form, therefore saving time when patients arrived for their appointments and helping the clinic run smoothly.

## HOBBIES

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Cosmetology

Weightlifting

Meditation

Astrology

Traveling