

January 24, 2012

Dear AMSA Members,

I am first-year medical student at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston, TX, and would love to be the next AMSA Chair of the Global Health Action Committee. I graduated from Rice University in 2010, where I was involved in our college government and a number of global health initiatives. As college president, I worked to support the creativity of students I represented and made specific investments to ensure the financial future of our student organization. One of the largest projects I undertook was working with Rice's facilities management to fully renovate the social spaces at my residential college. I presided over our public meetings, during which we debated how to most effectively fund student initiatives (e.g. student-taught courses, charity fundraisers, cultural events) and established the student body's stance on university-wide issues. Through this position, I learned how to effectively manage and coordinate the activities within our college in order to accomplish the goals we established early in the year. I hope to transfer these skills and apply my passion for working with others to achieve tangible results for AMSA's Global Health Action Committee.

After graduating college, I had the privilege of serving as the 2011 intern at the Baylor Children's Clinic in Gaborone, Botswana. I received a two-month stipend to travel to the clinic and implement a number of low-cost technologies developed by Rice students. Being a foreign student, I had to gain the trust of the local staff and American physicians running the clinic. The professional ties I established with them allowed me to fulfill my assignment and shadow their clinical activities. This experience exposed the need for physicians in developing countries and persuaded me to pursue a career in global health. After residency, I hope to follow a similar path as the physicians I worked with by joining the Global Health Corps and working abroad for several years.

As chair of the Committee, I hope to accomplish four major goals for AMSA: 1) promote the development of an international health track curriculum at medical schools across the country, 2) increase awareness of career opportunities in global health following residency, 3) lobby for increased scholarship opportunities and loan repayment options for work abroad, and 4) support leadership development and increase recruitment of students interested in global health. Being in the Texas Medical Center, I am uniquely situated to stay abreast of current issues and advances in the field of global health. It is home to the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI), the Global Health Corps at Texas Children's Hospital, the BCM Center for Globalization, and the BCM School of Tropical Medicine, which is scheduled to open this July and will be the only school of its kind in North America. I am currently pursuing the international health track at BCM, a concentration devoted to exposing medical students to current health challenges across the globe.

I would love to continue to pursue my interests in global health and expand my understanding of current issues in the field. I hope to learn from the AMSA coordinators and action committee chairs, as well as contribute my perspective and skills to our superb organization.

Sincerely,

Alexander Bonnel  
MD Candidate, Baylor College of Medicine (2015)  
Proud AMSA Member




# Alexander Bonnel

## Candidate for Global Health Chair



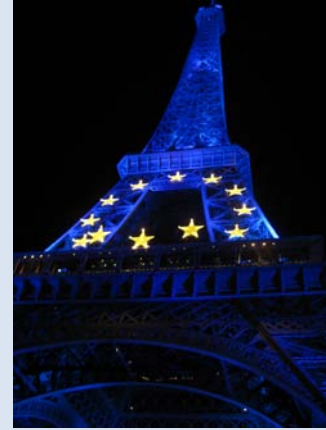
Baylor College of Medicine  
Class of 2015 (MS1)

# Relevant Experience

- B.A. in **Sociology**, minor in **Global Health Technologies**; Rice University Class of 2010.
  - **Study Abroad** program in Comparative Health Policy and Global Health; Paris, France.
  - ***Beyond Traditional Borders Intern***, 2010: received 2-month stipend to work at the Baylor Clinic in Gaborone, Botswana, and test low-cost technologies engineered by students for use in developing countries.
  - **Humanitarian Medical Outreach Trip**, Ghana 2008: volunteered at local hospital and ran HIV-screening clinic.
  - **Residential College President**, 2009-2010: elected position in charge of overseeing student-run college cabinet. Worked on a number of projects aimed at improve student quality of life and long-term financial security of the college.
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# Other information

- Hometown: Washington, DC
- Fluent in French
- Violinist in the Texas Medical Orchestra
- Played rugby in college and during study abroad in Paris
- Took a year off before medical school and did clinical research in Philadelphia, PA
- Love riding motorcycles
- Amateur photographer



# Goals for the year

- Promote the development of an international health track/minor at medical schools across the U.S.
  - provide curriculum model that students want
- Increase awareness of career opportunities in global health following residency (BIPAI Global Health Corps, Médecins Sans Frontières, etc)
- Lobby for increased scholarship opportunities in global health and loan repayment programs for work abroad
  - encourage AMSA to adopt an official stance on this issue pertinent to the U.S.'s contribution to global health
- Support leadership development and increase recruitment of students interested in global health