

## **ELIZABETH AZZATO**

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2006

Degrees: Washington and Jefferson College - B.A., Biology, 2002; University of North Carolina School of Public Health, M.P.H., 2005; Duke University School of Medicine – M.D., 2010

Research Interests: Epidemiology, Pharmacogenetics and Oncological Sciences



Elizabeth Azzato graduated summa cum laude as the Salutarian of Washington and Jefferson College with a B.A. in Biology in 2002. Because of her outstanding abilities, she had attended college on a full academic scholarship. For her college work, she earned numerous academic awards including membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the Phi Sigma biology honorary society, and the Edwin Scott Linton Prize in Biology for the student with the highest grade-point average. She was on Dean's list throughout her undergraduate career and won the Alpha Scholar award. She also won the Robert Harbison Bible Prize for the student with a minor in religion with the highest grade-point average. She had several outstanding research experiences including a Howard Hughes Medical Institutes summer internship in the Department of Neuroscience at Ohio State University to study neuronal regeneration. She then matriculated to Duke University School of Medicine where she has completed a Masters of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at the same time as her medical training. In these studies, she used biostatistics and clinical knowledge to evaluate the North Carolina State care management program and healthcare delivery to pediatric asthmatics. She then was awarded a fellowship in the National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Training Program to take a year absence from medical school to study pharmacogenetics of drug metabolism using genetic polymorphisms in pregnant women. She is now poised to extend her studies in pharmacogenetics as a doctoral student in which she will earn a combined M.D./Ph.D. degree in the NIH National Medical Scientist Training Program. Outside of the lab, her favorite sport is basketball and she played on the undergraduate varsity squad as well as an intramural team in medical school. She also has a passion for the environment and served as vice president of "Students Active for the Environment" and co-chaired the campus-wide Earth Day celebrations. For the future, Elizabeth is interested in the potential of applying pharmacogenetics to oncology with the hope that genetic differences in the disposition of chemotherapeutic agents might radically change clinical practice.