

## **James Fugett, II**

James was raised in the coalfield town of Williamson, WV. His father was a coal miner as were several generations of family members before. He came to West Virginia University in 2012, studying biology and researching breast cancer metastases at the WVU Cancer Center. In 2016, he graduated with a Bachelor of Biology with Honors. Shortly after, he was hired as a Pathology Assistant in the WVU Pathology Laboratory for Translational Medicine. James was part of a team internationally recognized in providing pathology services for medical ablation device companies. In collaboration with the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, in Monterrey, Mexico, he won the 2017 Golden Hysteroscope Award, for his research on cesarean-induced isthmoceles and their clinical implications. James pursued a master's degree in 2018 under the mentorship of Dr. Hayanga as a 2019 RJW Scholar, as part of a cardiothoracic surgery research initiative at West Virginia University. This collaborations has led to the writing of several manuscripts addressing the health disparities and health outcomes in disadvantaged patient populations. In July 2019, James was accepted to medical school at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.