

# Alumni Profile

## Hari Ramalingam BSPH Class of 2010

M.D. student, Duke University

**BSPH, Biostatistics, UNC –Chapel Hill, 2010**  
**BS, Biology, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2010**

In training to be a physician, Hari Ramalingam must learn to integrate objectivity with human connections, but that is a goal with which he is very familiar.

“Biostatistics is a discipline that is at once firmly rooted in objective statistics and applicable to the humanistic core that is the foundation of health care” he observes.

“Knowing how to design a simple study and analyze its results has helped me both in conducting research of my own, and understanding the work that is published by investigators across the country. The latter, especially, furthers my understanding of medicine and has been instrumental in any success even after graduating from UNC.” He adds “I find that my work has greater meaning when I base it on the principles I learned at Gillings School of Global Public Health.”



Ramalingam had not initially intended to study Biostatistics. As a freshman he knew he wanted to push himself in math and science and learn real, applicable skills, but was at a loss for just how to do it. One meeting with Dr. Jane Monaco sold him on Biostatistics. “That early in my education, having someone who encouraged me to push myself was amazing.”

He quickly began to contribute to the community's academic excellence. He won several prestigious awards, including a Goldwater Scholarship and a Taylor Research Fellowship, and he achieved two publications, one as a first author.

Since graduating, he hasn't been forgotten, nor has he forgotten his alma mater. “I found that my relationship with the faculty at the Biostatistics Department grew even stronger after I graduated,” he says. Several faculty members continued to offer him advice and help.

He insists that this shows that the Biostatistics Department and the Gillings School of Global Public Health is a community.



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