The Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH) has awarded the Joseph S. Gonnella, MD Scholarship to Evan Bilheimer, a Jefferson Medical College (JMC) student who recently completed his third year of medical school and is entering the MPH program at JSPH. He received high honors in Neurology and Pediatrics in Fall 2013 and he participates in a College, Population Health voluntary scholarly concentration.

The Joseph S. Gonnella Scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Gonnella, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, former Dean of Jefferson Medical College, and founder and director of JMC’s Center for Research in Medical Education and Healthcare. This merit-based award is intended specifically for highly qualified students of JMC who wish to pursue an MPH in addition to their medical degree.

Bilheimer graduated from the University of Rochester in 2009, Magna Cum Laude, with degrees in History and Chemistry. During his time in undergraduate school, Bilheimer volunteered for two medical service trips abroad for Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc. After graduation, he worked for AmeriCorps as an HIV Counselor and Teen Substance Abuse Youth Group Leader at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Neponset Health Center in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Since entering medical school, he participated in the Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship program providing health education and programming at To Our Children’s Future with Health, a community-based non-profit agency. Bilheimer has also volunteered with JeffHOPE and the Refugee Health Partner’s Houston Clinic.

Bilheimer intends to pursue a career in Family Medicine by providing preventive community health services and becoming involved in the administration and delivery of healthcare at the systems level. He believes the MPH program will equip him with skills for evaluating and managing the various social determinants of health, while becoming actively involved with the changing health care environment and practice transformation. He is committed to providing equitable and quality healthcare to patients and populations.