

## 2016 \$1,000 Audi Gerstein Scholarship Recipient



“My diagnosis of ITP was very shocking. It turned my life upside down. I had to learn about a disease I had never heard of before and change my lifestyle completely. I had to deal with terrible symptoms from medication. I could have just given up and taken the easy route, but I decided to use my experience to make a difference in the world.”  
“...the best way I can help people is to become a hematologist...I could make the difference for and provide support for someone newly diagnosed better than a regular hematologist, because I have had personal experience with this.”

WINNER!

**John Phillips** *Elk Grove, CA* Consumnes River College

## 2016 \$100 Audi Gerstein Book Award Recipients



**Kimberly Caputo**  
*Monroe Township, NJ*  
Pace University

“It was not until I came across the quote ‘Falling down is a part of life, getting back up is living’ when I realized that life will throw curveballs at you. But, it is how you catch them that proves yourself to the world. Instead of blaming everyone for what happened to me, I fell in love with myself. I love who I am because I am the 1 in 100,000 people that have ITP.”



**Rachel Garbe**  
*Westbrook, ME*

The University of New England

“People often associate the words disease or disorder with negative thoughts and outcomes. Sometimes, however, those that fall ill to medical problems use them to their advantage and turn it into something positive. They say that struggling with something in your life paves the way to something with a greater meaning and purpose. Through illness, people tend to grow and learn more about themselves, discover their strengths and weaknesses, and change their approach to life. Since becoming diagnosed with ITP, I can say that the above statements have been true for me.”



**Hannah Ridings**  
*Crozet, VA*

*Virginia Tech Honors College*

“ITP presents complications in areas of life I wish were simple, but having the disorder challenges me to adapt and assess what is most important to me. My experiences with the disorder have instilled in me a deep passion for medicine and the human body, and the phenomenal physicians I have met have shown me how to ‘do medicine’ with grace, modesty, and skill. ITP is not a challenge I would have picked for myself, but the persistence and passion I have developed managing this disorder are traits I would never give up.”



*Making the World of ITP  
a more manageable place to be!*

To donate to the Audi Gerstein Scholarship Fund visit: <http://pdsa.org/resources/scholarship-program.html>