

## 2015 \$1,000 Audi Gerstein Scholarship Recipient



“My experience as an ITP patient has made me keenly aware of the many implications of medicine beyond biology. After experiencing medicine as a patient, I have learned about both the medical profession and myself. I now personally understand the importance of kindness, compassion and communication in medicine. Patients are people, not illnesses. I fundamentally value the dignity and importance of every human life, no matter who the person is or what their background entails. It is for this reason that I plan to dedicate my career to improving lives.”

WINNER!

**Emily Harris** Westport, CT Columbia University of Physicians and Surgeons

## 2015 \$100 Audi Gerstein Book Award Recipients



**Alana Regan**  
Tewksbury, MA

Western New England University  
College of Pharmacy

“Two years ago I never thought my life could turn around this way. I persevered through an experience that most people will never have to go through and as a result, matured beyond my years. While I know that my physical immune system was compromised, my emotional immune system is now stronger than ever! I learned a valuable lesson: that I am able to persevere and succeed through life’s most difficult challenges. I know that I can do anything now.”



**Chloe Lane**  
Jefferson City, TN

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

“Many will view an illness as a weakness or something that holds you back, but I have found the opposite is true. My platelet condition has shown me a new outlook on life; I see myself and others differently, and it has truly impacted every area of my life. These experiences have defined me and shaped me to be more conscious of the needs of others, while also seeing my own needs. By setting goals for myself, I have learned to aim for higher and achieve it in spite of what others thought I could do. I may never know what it means to live a life without worry or hardships, but I truly believe I am better for it.”



**Medhat Hanna**  
Mission Viejo, CA

University of California, Irvine,  
School of Medicine

“I have been blessed with many opportunities to learn that medicine far exceeds a prescription pad or any medical procedure. Although I still have much to learn, my undergraduate experience has shown me that I have a genuine gift for academics, research and engaging effectively with the emotional experiences of patients and their families. I presume that many teachers rely on their past experiences as students throughout their teaching careers, and that parents recall their childhood and adolescent years while interacting with their children. In this regard, I find myself blessed for being a chronically-ill patient because I will not have to rely on my imagination to empathize with my patients. As a physician this is something I will never take lightly; I will also remember that my patients, like myself, are far more than the sum of their symptoms.”



*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>