JABULANI RURAL HEALTH FOUNDATION/ZITHULELE HOSPITAL
ZITHULELE, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Kevin Pendo
Class of 2019
Department of Neuroscience
WHERE WAS I?

- Rural Eastern Cape of South Africa
- Stayed in the ‘student house’ -- awesome experience
- Worked with research team at Philani Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition Project
- Philani conducts research & runs programs to improve maternal and child health in Zithulele
- My role: write code to organize, process, and analyze data from 4-year cohort study of 471 new mothers
- My focus: trends of HIV prevalence and incidence among mothers in Zithulele, as well as analyze patterns in family planning, ARV coverage, and mother-to-child transmission
- Data analysis → useful insights for Philani and Zithulele hospital
WHAT ELSE DID I DO?

- Shadowed in the hospital
- Went into the field with data capturers from Philani
- Visited rural clinics
- Got to spend two afternoons with education NGO
Learning from a group of incredibly dedicated colleagues in a learner-friendly environment

Being part of a special community

Feeling that I was contributing to something much larger than myself

Gaining an eye-opening global perspective

The ‘little things’—playing ball with the kids in the hospital, playing Frisbee with the community, having dinner with the pastor and his wife
OUTSIDE OF WORK—NATURE!
Valuable clinical experience that I hope to carry forward into medical school

Made me realize the importance of dedicated physicians, as well as well-functioning systems further upstream

Made me interested in healthcare beyond the US, as the world’s most burdensome health issues are taking place beyond our borders
CONCLUSION

- Immensely rewarding summer—culturally, educationally, and personally
- Nice to be ‘disconnected’ for a bit—made new friendships, had tons of great conversations, and learned about myself
- Excited to bring my experiences back to Princeton to share them with my peers and use them in my continued education
Thank you to IIP, CHW, and Dr. le Roux for helping make this incredible experience possible