ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME CLASS OF 2012!
183 new first year students entered the College of Medicine this year. The class is 46% female and 54% male. 75% are from New York State. Other states represented are: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The age range of the class is 20-40, and they come from 75 different colleges. The Diversity Survey for the class will be posted on the glass bulletin board outside of the Office of the Registrar.

MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
Are you a second year or fourth year medical student, and do you want to help select future students for SUNY Downstate? The time commitment is every Wednesday from 4-6:30 p.m. the months of November through May. If you are interested in this position, please submit the following to Ms. Ilana Levine in the Office of Admissions at Box 60 (Room 133, BSB) by Friday, September 26: your name, local mailing address, local telephone number, box number, a brief description of any experiences which might qualify you for a position on the Admissions Committee, and a brief statement of why you are interested in this position. Candidates may be asked to come for an interview. There are two MS 2 and two MS 4 positions available.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE NEWS
Join me in welcoming Ms. Michelle Bolton, Associate Director of Financial Aid and Ms. Cristina Ortiz-Harvey, Assistant Director of Financial Aid to SUNY Downstate. Ms. Bolton and Ms. Ortiz-Harvey join Mr. James Newell (Director), Mr. James Hayes (Associate Director), Ms. Sharon Fayall (Loan Counselor), and Ms. Sharon McDonald, to offer improved financial aid counseling services to students in all of our programs.

DID YOU DO SOMETHING NICE THIS SUMMER?
If you are a second year medical student and you did research or some other educationally related experience this summer, do not forget to have your preceptor/attending send a letter describing your experience (what you did) and how you performed, for inclusion in your academic file. The letter should be addressed to: Lorraine Terracina, Ph.D., SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 85, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Our fax number is (718) 270-7592. The letter must be from your preceptor/attending, not from you, in order to be included in your academic file. It must be on letterhead and signed.

In order to determine if your letter has been received, go to the Office of the Registrar during office hours, show your ID card and ask to see your academic file. The letter should be in there if it has been received.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR – Get Involved!
Learn about our student organizations and how to get involved! The date is Thursday, September 4 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Student Center Tennis Court.

MS 3’s and MS 4’s NEEDED
We need MS 3 and MS 4 students to assist with campus tours for medical school applicants. Please contact Ms. Ilana Levine (College of Medicine Interview Coordinator) in the Admissions Office if you are available from 12-1 p.m. Or, contact her via email or internet (Ilana.Levine@downstate.edu)

NIH CLINICAL ELECTIVES PROGRAM offers electives (extramural credit) in 21 areas. For the list and more information, go to www.training.nih.gov/student/cep/index.asp. There is also a clinical elective in Medical Informatics at http://lhnbc.nlm.nih.gov/training and click on “Clinical Elective for Medical and Dental Students” Flyer in glass bulletin board.

The AMA FOUNDATION announces their National and Regional Student Research Forums, which offer medical and graduate students the opportunity to present their research, receive meaningful feedback and participate in scholarly discussions. The Eastern-Atlantic Forum is scheduled for February 2009 in Miami (application deadline November 30, 2008) and the National Forum is scheduled for April, 2009 in Galveston (application deadline January 2009) For more information, go to www.amafoundation.org

The Brooklyn Free Clinic was recently awarded the 1st place prize in the Community Service category at the 13th Annual AMSA Poster Session at the National Convention in Houston. This session was sponsored by the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the AMSA Foundation. The poster abstract can be found at http://www.amsa.org/conv/08/posterwinners.cfm

CONFERENCE: “Aging and Cancer: Two Sides of the Same Coin?” Sponsored by the American Federation for Aging Research. October 6-7, 2008 at the Union League Club, 38 East 37th Street, New York. For more information go to www.afar.org/cancerconf.html There is no charge for this event but space is limited and registration is required.

INTERESTED IN SURGERY? The American College of Surgeons invites you to attend a special program for medical students on October 12-14 in San Francisco. You have to complete a Scientific Program Registration Form (www.facs.org) no later than Friday, September 26, 2008. For more information, go to www.facs.org/clincon2008/details/medicalstudent.html

ONE YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS

NIH/FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
This is a one year mentored clinical research experience at NIH funded research centers in Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, Haiti, India, Kenya, Mali, Peru, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia.

To learn more, go to www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/overseasfellowship/start.htm Application deadline is December 5, 2008. We are pleased that one of our students was selected as a 2008 participant.

The NIH CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM is a one-year program at the NIH for medical students who have completed one year of clinical rotations (you spend the
year in-between the third and fourth year at the NIH. 30 students per year are accepted into the program. There is a stipend. Informational brochure in the Office of Student Affairs. Read about the NIH Clinical Research Training Program at: http://www.training.nih.gov/crtp Application available in October.
MS 4 Priya Mahindra just returned from the CRTP.

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

You are invited! A medical student currently in the NIH Cloister program will be here in November to explain the program and how to apply. Everyone is invited to this informational session. You do not need prior research experience. It doesn’t hurt to come and listen. Food available too!

NIH Research Scholars Program (Cloister Program)

Most students participate as Research Scholars after their 2nd or 3rd year of medical school. Students may work on basic, translational or applied biomedical research. Prior research experience may be advantageous but is not required. You select your preceptor and research project after your acceptance into the program. Students chosen as HHMI NIH Research Scholars (about 40 are selected each year – we have had students chosen for this program) will work at the NIH for approximately one year, beginning July 15 and August 31. There is a stipend. Moving expenses and subsidized, on-campus housing is also part of the program.

HHMI Research Training Fellowships for Medical Students (non-cloister)

This permits students to spend one year conducting research at any school or non-profit research institution in the USA except the NIH. We have had students do this program, too! There is a stipend.

The NIH YEAR-OFF TRAINING PROGRAM – for more information go to www.training.nih.gov/student/Pre-IRTA/irtamanualinterim.asp

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The AMA FOUNDATION SEED GRANT RESEARCH Program awards grants of $2500 towards the conduct of small projects in applied and clinical research, led by medical students and residents. Applications must be received by December 12, 2008. Information: AMA Foundation, seedgrants@ama-assn.org or go to http://www.amafoundation.org. Telephone 312 464-4200, Grants are awarded in: Cardiovascular/Pulmonary Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Leukemia, Neoplastic Diseases, Secondhand Smoke

PEDIATRICS RESEARCH

The American Pediatrics Society and the Society for Pediatric Research are offering a grant for medical students to participate in research at a medical school other than their own. Nearly 300 laboratories are available, visit www.aps-spr.org to download an application packet or to review the on-line directory of laboratory opportunities. Application deadline January 23, 2009. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

SUMMER (NON-RESEARCH) PROGRAMS


JOBS

[No entries this month]

CONTESTS, PRIZES, AWARDS

OSLER ESSAY CONTEST

A medal is awarded for the best unpublished essay on a medical historical topic and attendance at the annual meeting of the History of Medicine Association. Complete information at www.histmed.org/Awards. Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2009

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

[no entries this month]

RESIDENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

Residency Match List

See the 2008 Residency Match list in the glass bulletin board next to the Office of the Registrar. The residency match lists for the last 13 years is posted on the Student Affairs website.

Careers In Medicine Web Site

Careers in Medicine, a career development program to assist you in choosing a specialty and plan for residency. To access Careers in Medicine, go to www.aamc.org/careerinmedicine and click on the “Login” button on the left menu bar. If you are new to the site, you will need to register. Click on the “New User” button on the bottom of the page. To obtain an access code, email Ms. Anne Shonbrun in the Office of the Registrar (Anne.Shonbrun@downstate.edu).

Careers in Medicine has just released a new tool called Residency Preference Exercise. This exercise helps medical students identify criteria important to them in selecting a residency program and, using that information, searching for and rating programs on how well the program fits those criteria.

The Careers in Medicine newsletter, Choices, is now available from the Careers in Medicine website (www.aamc.org/students/cim/choicesnewsletter.pdf) The newsletter provides important information about residency and career choice topics. The August, 2008 newsletter spotlights Otolaryngology (ENT).

A Guide to the Preparation of the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (also known as the Dean’s Letter) http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html
We do not send your academic file to residency programs. You fill out an application form known as ERAS, very similar to the AMCAS application in format. A letter summarizing your academic performance in medical school, MSPE, is also sent to residency programs.

Roadmap to Residency: From Application to the Match and Beyond
http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html

Charting Outcomes in the Match: Characteristics of Applicants Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty in the 2005 NRMP Main Residency Match
http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html
From the AAMC, includes information about Step 1 scores, number of programs on the rank order list, AOA honor society membership, and research accomplishments.
Charting Outcomes in the Match: Characteristics of Applicants Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty in the 2007 NRMP Main Residency Match

This updates the 2005 report with the 2007 cohort. Compare the two and see if the specialties you are interested in have changed.

SCHOLARSHIPS

[no entries this month]

GENERAL INFORMATION

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT COUNSELING

This is a reminder that we have a director of student counseling, Dr. Christine Saunders-Fields. To schedule an appointment, please telephone 718 270-1408 or email her at counseling@downstate.edu. All appointments and sessions are completely confidential. I strongly recommend the relaxation exercises for everyone! The service is free of charge.

EPOCRATES is offering Epocrates Essentials to you. To check if your handheld device is compatible, to www.epocrates.com/products/essentials/requirements.html You are allowed one download per year up to four years. Email me to receive the URL link. You will be taken to a product demonstration/log in page and then to a product demonstration. After viewing the demonstration, you may download Epocrates Essentials.

CHILD CARE

The Children’s Center at SUNY Downstate provides daycare services for children age 2 months – 5 years and is fully licensed by the NY Dept of Health & Bureau of Day Care Services. Hours are 7:30 a.m-5:30 p.m., Mondays-Fridays. Location is 440 Lenox Road. Openings are available. If you would like more information or a tour, contact 718 221-6160.

WHERE TO GO FOR...

Curriculum Changes – The Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee of the Faculty of the College of Medicine is chaired by Dr. Margaret Golden from the Dept. of Pediatrics and has 2 student representatives from each medical school class year.

Curriculum Changes, Academic Requirements Changes, Academic Policy Changes – The Dean’s Education Council oversees the curriculum and academic policies for all four medical school years. The Committee is chaired by Stanley Friedman, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Education. The Committee’s recommendations go directly to the Dean of the College of Medicine, Ian Taylor, M.D., Ph.D. There are two student representatives on the committee – the president of the Medical Student Council (Michael Allison) and the president of the MS 4 class (Jessica Wong). The Committee meets once a month.

SENIOR CLASS NOTES

MS 4 EXTRAMURAL (AWAY) ELECTIVES

The AAMC has an Extramural Electives Compendium at www.aamc.org/stuapps/electives in the "Students and Residents" section of the AAMC website. This lists the contact person, name and mailing address, for away electives at other medical schools.

Check your SUNY Downstate email regularly for the announcement of the Preliminary Program Informational Meeting and the Residency Interviewing Workshop

HOW TO HELP IN THE EVENT OF A CITY-WIDE EMERGENCY- Join the Medical Reserve Corps/NYC

The New York City Dept. of Health is seeking health professions students (medical, nursing, health related) to join their Medical Reserve Corps. In addition to free membership, Medical Reserve Corps members will receive training on how to assist New York City in the event of a national health emergency.

The Medical Reserve Corps/NYC has been created to mobilize health professionals who want to partner with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene during a local health emergency that would require the City to open Points of Distribution clinics (PODs). The goal of the MRC is to bring together the knowledge, expertise and skills of many different health professionals to address public health crises. Any licensed or certified health professional, who lives or works in New York City, can join the MRC. Please visit www.medicalreserve.org for more information and to register. You may also call 866-NYC-DOH for more information or to register, and email any questions to healthmrc@health.nyc.gov.


DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY? HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONE FINDER

Find out if your address is located in an evacuation zone. Go to www.NYC.gov/hurricanezones

WHERE TO GET DIFFERENT TYPES OF LETTERS

http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/where_to_get_letters.html

Attendance: Letters simply certifying that you are in a student in school, or in good academic standing, etc. may be obtained directly from the Registrar’s Office. This also applies to applications for away (extramural) electives.

Scholarship Letters and School Letters of Recommendation for Special Programs: If you are applying for a scholarship, award, or special program (e.g. summer research, summer clinical, Alaska Health Service elective, NIH research year, etc.) and they require a letter of recommendation from the school, or a letter from the dean, or something more than attendance, then this goes through the Office of Student Affairs.

Write out your name, the nature of your request, the complete title and mailing address of where the letter should be sent, any deadline date, any items, which must be included in the letter, and any information which you would like included about activities, which you have been involved in during medical school. Allow 5 business days for completion.

Faculty Letters of Recommendation: If you are a MS 1 student applying for a summer program or a scholarship which requires a faculty letter of recommendation, remember your preceptors, small group discussion leaders, etc. that you have had in your courses may be able to write you a letter if you don’t feel you know your block director well enough. If you still feel you are having a problem or don’t have enough references, then drop off a copy of what you are applying for to the Office of Student Affairs along with a note describing your problem and I will provide advice on what you should do.

Jury Duty Letters: You can request a letter from the Office of Student Affairs requesting the court to postpone your dates of jury duty. We have no guarantee that the court will do so. Bring the original copy of your summons to the Office of Student Affairs. The court’s final decision prevails. You may need to serve during your vacation period.
SAFETY REMINDER
University Police has reminds all of us to use good judgment when traveling to and from campus. Avoid walking in the evening hours (6 p.m.-7 a.m.) alone and use the escort service to public transportation, the parking lots or to KCH for a radius of 6 blocks of the campus. University Police prefers we use the Church Avenue station in the evening hours. Call 270-2626 and the van will pick you up from the station.

MS 1 & MS 2 CARREL COORDINATORS
MS 1 students should report carrel or key problems to Viktoryija Nikolenko in Room 605, HSEB; telephone x7524. She has an email account so you can email her.
MS 2 students should report carrel or key problems to Hugh Pitter in Room 501, HSEB; telephone X7507 and he’s on email too.

SUNY DOWNSTATE BRAGGING RIGHTS x 5
Congratulations to Noriyuki Murakami, MS 3 on his selection for the NIH Fogarty/Ellison one year clinical research program in Thailand!
Congratulations to Lillian Guenther, MS 2 on her selection for the NIH Howard Hughes Medical Institute one year research program at the NIH campus!
Congratulations to Ahmed Zihni, MS 3 on his selection for the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill!
Congratulations to Melanie Wong, MS 3 on her selection for the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at the Univ. of Iowa!
Congratulations to Leslie Marino, MS 2 on her selection for the CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program!

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DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
If you have a question and don’t know where to go for an answer, or have a concern, please remember that you can send email inquiries to Dr. Lorraine Terracina, Associate Dean Sophie Christoforou, or Assistant Dean Jeffrey Putman. All are available for individual appointments. To schedule an individual appointment with Dr. Terracina, send her an email (Lorraine.Terracina@downstate.edu). To schedule an appointment call 270-2187 or send an email. If you have a question, don’t be afraid to ask!

Glass Bulletin Board Items
(First floor, next to Room 111, Basic Science Bldg.)
Note: Sometimes, various programs send their notices of programs and opportunities too late to appear in that month’s newsletter. If the deadline for the program is before the next newsletter will be published, the information will still be posted in the glass bulletin board. Therefore, periodically check the bulletin board for such late announcements.

AMSA Programs
SUNY Downstate does not provide any financial assistance for students to participate in the following programs.

EMERGENCIES (Weather and Other Events)
(CANCELLATION OF CLASSES)
While Downstate Medical Center (school and hospital) has not been closed due to a snow emergency, if such a declaration were to be made, you would hear the notification on your local radio or television station, the same as the notification for other school closings. You may also telephone the University Operator at 718 270-1000. Only the President of the Downstate Medical Center is authorized to cancel all classes at Downstate Medical Center.

However, inclement weather or other events, may cause the cancellation of specific classes by the course instructor or college dean. If a weather emergency or other emergency event should occur, you should check the SUNY Downstate website for information. In addition, you may telephone the general campus telephone number which is 718 270-1000.

When you call 718 270-1000, you will hear, "Welcome to Downstate Medical Center and its University Hospital of Brooklyn. University Hospital and all Colleges remain OPEN today. However, college class instructors have the option of canceling individual classes. Students should Press "2" to hear the status of classes in your individual program. All others, Press "1" to continue to the main menu."

When you press "2," you will hear
For MS1 press 1
For MS2, press 2
For College of Nursing, press 3
For College of Health Related Professions, press 4
For the School of Graduate Studies, press 5
For the Masters in Public Health, press 6

College of Medicine, Years 1 & 2 only
Once you press the appropriate year, your block director will have an announcement, which states the class schedule for all activities for that day, for that block.

College of Medicine, Years 3 & 4
Follow the schedule at your clinical site. Contact your preceptor and your clerkship director if you are unsure about your responsibilities or the clinical schedule.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
We have no information about the quality of the following programs. Enroll in them at your own risk!

Unite for Sight has published its international internship opportunities at www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer. This is not a school sponsored program and not eligible for malpractice or other coverage from the school. You participate as a private citizen.

There is also a conference scheduled for April 18-19, 2009 at Yale University
Global Service Corps (Worldwide) programs in Tanzania and Thailand address the challenge of healthcare in the developing world. For more information, contact Mayia Holliday at operations@globalservicecorps.org

Child Family Health International. Go to www.cfhi.org. Their application is at www.cfhi.org/program_intro.php4. This is not a school sponsored program and not eligible for malpractice or other coverage from the school. You participate as a private citizen.

MAP International Medical Fellowship in the context of Christian medical missions. For more information, go to www.map.org or email mstevenson@map.org. This is not a school sponsored program and not eligible for malpractice or other coverage from the school. You participate as a private citizen. Application deadline March 1.
Go to www.map.org