WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP
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, Dr. Henry Flax or Ms. Sophie Christoforou. Dr. Flax, Dr. Terracina and Ms. Christoforou are also available for individual appointments. To schedule an individual appointment with Dr. Flax or Dr. Terracina, call 270-2187. To schedule an appointment with Ms. Christoforou, call 270-1107. If you have a question, don’t be afraid to ask!

HEALTHCARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ELECTIVE
Third year students may now apply for this elective, which is taken in the fourth year of medical school. Applications are available at www.downstate.edu/preventivemedicine/overseas. The application deadline is December 31, 2003.

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)

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’s website. This lists the contact person, name and mailing address, for away electives at other medical schools.

AIRLINE DISCOUNT FOR RESIDENCY INTERVIEWS
The AAMC has renewed an agreement with American Airlines to offer discounts for senior medical students traveling to interviews for residency programs. Information concerning the discount is available at the OSR website at www.aamc.org/members/osr/discount.htm. Valid travel dates are October 1, 2003-May 31, 2004.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY
The AAAAI is announcing the availability of travel and housing grants to attend the annual meeting in San Francisco, CA during March 19-23, 2004. To apply, you must complete an application (go to www.aaai.org and then visit the “Careers in A/I” link in the Professionals Center). A faculty letter must accompany the application. The deadline is November 26, 2003.

THE SARNOFF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
This program offers medical students who have completed their second or third year of medical school to conduct research for one year. Prior research experience is not a prerequisite. The annual stipend is $25,000. We have one application in the Office of Student Affairs. The fellowship program’s website is www.SarnoffEndowment.org. Application deadline is January 16, 2004. Poster in glass bulletin board.

LEAH J. DICKSTEIN, MD AWARD
The award is open to female medical students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, creativity, and leadership. The award is $1000 and attendance at the annual meeting in NYC May 1-6, 2004. Only two students may be nominated. If you are interested in applying, contact the office of Student Affairs for an application form. Application deadline in Student Affairs, February 1, 2004.

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE – NIH RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM (Cloister Program)
An on-campus presentation about this program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3
12 noon-1 p.m., Classroom 1A, HSEB.

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. The salary for one year is $17,800. Moving expenses and subsidized, on-campus housing are also part of the program. The application forms are now on-line at www.hhmi.org/cloister/download.html. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is January 10, 2004.


NEW!
You can apply to both the cloister and non-cloister programs
NIH Intramural labs: http://www1.od.nih.gov/oir/sourcebook/sci-prgms/sci-prgms-toc.htm
NIH Special Interest Groups: http://www.nih.gov/sigs/sigs.html

LISTSERV FOR STEP 2B – USMLE CLINICAL EXAM
The National Boards has started a listserv to facilitate discussion on the clinical exam. It is primarily for students and other interested individuals. For details on how to join the list, log onto www.nbme.org/listserv.asp

COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION
The New York Academy of Medicine's Urban Health Initiative has published a Community Resource Guide for Medical Students Interested in providing or Volunteering Community Service. A hard copy is available in the Office of Student Affairs. A copy is also available at www.nyam.org/divisions/urbanhealth.
PEDiATRICS RESEARCH PROGRAM
The Society for Pediatric Research and the American Pediatric Society sponsors a medical student research program to encourage medical students to consider careers in research related to pediatrics. The program provides a daily stipend up to $4105 for 8-10 weeks in a research environment. For additional information, go to www.apsgpr.org. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Application deadline January 28, 2004.

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY WILLIAM B. BEAN STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

STANDARDIZED PATIENT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL BOARDS
The National Boards is including a test of clinical skills as part of the USMLE (passing required for licensure) Step 2, starting with the Class of 2005. The inclusion of standardized patient experiences in the curriculum of SUNY Downstate is advantageous to acclimate you to what will be part of your required competencies in the future. Make the most of the opportunity! Third year students, in particular, should practice, practice, practice one history and physical exams! An article on the Standardized Patient Program of the National Boards is posted in the glass bulletin board.


AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

GLORENY-RAISBECK MEDICAL STUDENT GRANTS IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
Three grants will each provide a stipend of $2500 for M.D. students pursuing basic science or research projects in urology. The deadline for submission of an application is March 1, 2004. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Applications available from Sheila Gray, NY Acad of Medicine.

FERDINAND VALENTINE MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT IN UROLOGY
Four grants will each provide a stipend of $2500 for M.D. students pursuing basic science or research projects in urology. The deadline for submission of an application is March 1, 2004. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Online: www.nyam.org/grants/valentine/student.shtml.

LOUIS SEAMAN MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS IN MICROBIOLOGY
Four grants will each provide a stipend of $2500 for MD students. The deadline for submission of an application is March 1, 2004. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Online: www.nyam.org/grants/seaman/index.shtml.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM
8, 10, or 12 week awards anytime during June 1, 2004-May 31, 2005 for students to carry out cardiovascular research in California, Nevada

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USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination (CSE)
At the May 12, 2003, meeting of the AAMC-NBME Liaison Committee in Washington, DC, the NBME made the following information available about implementation of the new CSE.
• The tentative date for implementation of the CSE is June 2004 for members of the 2005 graduating class.
• The CSE will produce three component scores: an Integrated Clinical Encounter (based on the checklist from the standardized patients and global ratings of the encounter note), an assessment of Communication skills, and an assessment of English Language skills.
• All three components of the CSE must be passed in order to achieve a passing score on the CSE. A failure in any one component will result in a failing score on the CSE.
• USMLE Step 2 will consist of two components: Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills.
• In order to be eligible to sit for USMLE Step 3, an examinee must have passed USMLE Step 1 and both the Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills components of USMLE Step 2.
• The fee for June 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, administrations of the CSE component of USMLE Step 2 has been set at $975.00 for US and Canadian medical school students and graduates.
• Schools that currently require students to take and/or pass Step 2 for graduation are, by definition, thus requiring their graduating students to take and/or pass the CSE for graduation since an over all passing score on Step 2 can be achieved only after passing both Step 2 components. Score reports and transcripts will provide pass/fail information regarding each component and the scaled score for the knowledge component.
• Since eligibility for USMLE Step 3 will require that graduates in 2005 or later have previously achieved passing scores on Step 1 and both components of Step 2, your state medical licensing authority does not have an option to make licensure decisions using only the previous components of USMLE. Any state medical licensing board not requiring applicants for licensure to pass the CSE would need to provide its own examination for licensure purposes, since USMLE Step 3 will not be available to those examinees without passing performance on the Step 2 Clinical Skills component.

Additional information about the USMLE and the CSE is available on the USMLE Web site (www.usmle.org).

from the AAMC's GSA Reporter, Vol. 1, No. 1- Summer 2003
MICHAEL E. DeBAKEY POETRY CONTEST
Baylor College of Medicine is sponsoring a poetry contest in honor of Michael DeBakey. Three cash prizes will be awarded ranging from $250-$1000. Submission deadline is December 31, 2003. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

CHILD FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL builds and strengthens healthcare services worldwide. go to www.cfhi.org.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP
The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (Lambarene Schweitzer Fellows Program) offers a fourth year, 3 month experience during May 1, 2004-July 31, 2004 in the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene, Gabon. Third year students apply now for this program in the fourth year. Application deadline is December 24, 2003. You must speak French to apply to this program. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Application available at www.schweitzerfellowship.org.

ARE YOU CALIFORNIA BOUND?
If you are planning on practicing in California, we recommend that you take the Family Practice track of the Primary Care Clerkship.

AOA STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
40 fellowships are awarded annually to 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year medical students. Each will provide $3000 to the student for support of the proposed research. Each school may nominate only one student. Submit your proposal to Dr. Arthur Wolintz, Dept. of Ophthalmology, AOA Chapter Councillor no later than December 15, 2003. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

AOA HELEN H. GLASER STUDENT ESSAY AWARD
The AOA Student Essay Award is to encourage medical students to address general topics in medicine. Cash prizes of $2000, $750, $500 and $250 are awarded. Deadline for submission is January 31, 2004. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

AOA MEDICAL STUDENT SERVICE PROJECT AWARD
This award is open to any individual medical student or group of students collaborating on a project from a school with an AOA chapter. Students need not be AOA members. The school will be awarded up to $1500 to fund the project. Funding can be extended for a second year up to $1000 and for a third year up to $500. Additional information described on a flyer in the glass bulletin board.

The AMA Foundation SEED GRANT RESEARCH Program awards grants of $1500 to $2500 towards the conduct of small projects in applied and clinical research, led by medical students and residents. Applications must be received by November 15, 2003. Information: AMA Foundation, seedgrants@ama-assn.org or go to http://www.amafoundation.org. Telephone 312 464-4200.

CAREERS IN MEDICINE WEB SITE
Careers in Medicine, a career development program to assist you in choosing a specialty and plan for residency, has updated their web site with a few new enhancements.

The changes include:
• A new values instrument, the Physician Values in Practice Scale (PVIPS). The PVIPS provides a quick and reliable measure of your values related to the practice of medicine. It was developed for and validated on medical students from U.S. medical schools across the country. The PVIPS helps you to identify your core values in terms of what is most important to you about being a physician and what you most want from your medical career.
• Updated and reorganized items for the Environmental Factors and Practice Needs assessments.
• A new item list and instructions for the Skills assessments, making them shorter and more relevant to the medical field.
• An enhanced user registration, adding a class year designation, a medical school search function and an informed consent statement.

There are also some minor changes to the look and navigation of the site for easier use. More changes are planned for the coming months.

To access Careers in Medicine, go to www.aamc.org/careersinmedicine 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. The access code for our school is 11STU136.

WHERE TO GET DIFFERENT TYPES OF LETTERS
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.

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. The court’s final decision prevails. You may need to serve during your vacation period.

PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR
Michael Harrell is SUNY Downstate’s Public Service Coordinator. His goal is to encourage more students to become...
involved in the community by informing them of volunteer opportunities, identify faculty members as mentors, and serve as liaison to community groups. You can reach him in the Office of Institutional Advancement, BSB 1-101 or by calling X1490.

MS 1 & MS 2 CARREL COORDINATORS
MS 1 students should report carrel or key problems to Natasha Stepanets 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 511, HSEB; telephone X7507 and he’s on email too.

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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, Dr. Henry Flax or Ms. Sophie Christoforou. Dr. Flax, Dr. Terracina and Ms. Christoforou are also available for individual appointments. To schedule an individual appointment with Dr. Flax or Dr. Terracina, call 270-2187. To schedule an appointment with Ms. Christoforou, call 270-1107. 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.

The Roswell Park Cancer Institute announces its summer oncology research program from June 7-July 30, 2004. The stipend is $280 per week for the 8 week period. Application deadline is February 13, 2004. Flyer in glass bulletin board. For more information contact Dean Arthur M. Michalek at arthur.michalek@roswellpark.org.

AMA Website at SUNY Downstate: www.freewebs.com/amadownstate for the latest information from your colleagues!

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee provides short-term training experiences in either clinical research or laboratory research for a minimum of 9 weeks, with a stipend of approximately $8 per hour. Application deadline is February 22, 2004. To identify departments and/or faculty members with whom you would like to work, go to www.stjude.org/pto/. There is an on-line application at that site.

Additional information in the Office of Student Affairs.

The Health Research Training Program (HRTP) of the NYC Dept. of Health Ad Mental Hygiene offers internships in public health research. This is a volunteer program. Flyer in glass bulletin board

MAP-Reader’s Digest International Fellowship is a fourth year program (application is made in third year), providing exposure in a Christian context to the health, social and cultural characteristics of a developing world community. The length is a minimum of 8 weeks with application by March 1 of the third year. Application available from www.map.org. Information sheet in the Office of Student Affairs.

MSJAMA, the medical student section of the Journal of the American Medical Association, is seeking submissions for its upcoming editions.

Theme Issue Articles:
Students interested in preparing a manuscript for one of these issues should contact that issue’s editor directly. Submissions are 900 or 800 words. MSJAMA encourages the collaboration of student authors with experts in their chosen topic. Announcement in glass bulletin board.

November - Quarantine
December - History of Medicine
January - Ethical Issues of Medical Student Education
February - Physician Quality of Life
March - Spirituality & Medicine
April - Preparing for “Personalized Medicine”
May - Reevaluating curricular priorities in American medical education
June - murm: creative writing

Creative Writing:
Students interested in contributing creative writing fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry to the section entitled “murm:” should email their submissions to Teri Reynold (treynol@itsa.ucsf.edu). Creative writing submissions need not relate to the issue themes.

Cover Art:
MSJAMA considers cover art submissions on a rolling basis. To submit work, send one or more items from your portfolio in slide or photograph format to: Stephen Lurie, MD, Ph.D. at JAMA, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60610. Cover art need not relate to the issue themes. Please do not submit work that has been submitted or published elsewhere. More information in the glass bulletin board.

For detailed information about how to submit and descriptions of next year’s theme issues please visit the MSJAMA web site at http://www.ama-assn.org/sci-pubs/msjama/index.htm.

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

1. Summer program: This 6-12 week program is available for 1st or 2nd year students to participate in a research, educational program development, and/or surveillance project at the CDC (in Atlanta or a regional office site). A listing of available programs for summer 2004 will be available in January 2004. Students will submit applications, and selections will be made by March 2004. Students will receive a stipend for participation in this project

2. Elective program: This 4-8 week program is available for 3rd and 4th year students to participate in a research, educational program development, and/or surveillance project at the CDC (in Atlanta or a regional office site). A listing of available elective opportunities for 2004 will be available in January 2004. Students will submit applications, and selections will be made in a timely manner for
elective slots approximately 4-6 months later. Housing and transportation costs will be subsidized.

Full details of these programs, including application information, will be posted to www.aamc.org/cdc as this material becomes available. For immediate information about these opportunities, please contact Deborah Danoff, MD (ddanoff@aamc.org) or Rika Maeshiro, MD, MPH (rmaeshiro@aamc.org)

3. One Year Fellowship for MS 3 or MS 4 Students: A new one-year fellowship in applied epidemiology for 3rd or 4th year medical students is available; it is sponsored by the Pfizer Foundation and Pfizer Inc., through the CDC Foundation. Eight competitively selected medical students will come to the CDC for a 10-12 month fellowship in applied epidemiology, beginning in September 2004. Students will participate in day-to-day applied epidemiology activities including fieldwork and possibly outbreak investigations, in programs around CDC, with an emphasis on non-infectious disease assignments. It is hoped that the full year will allow students an opportunity to see the critical role of epidemiologic science in the development of policy. Topics that will be covered in a series of didactic training and seminars include epidemiologic methods, biostatistics, policy development, and the impact of population health on clinical practice.

Interested medical students should visit the CDC Foundation Web site at: www.cdcfoundation.org/fellowships/cdcexperience.html.

| The American Medical Women’s Association sponsors a number of programs for women medical students. Flyers in the glass bulletin board. |
| Janet Glasgow Essay Award is $1000 and a plaque for the best essay of approximately 1,000 words. Application deadline May 31, 2004. |
| Carroll L. Birch Award is a cash prize of $500 and a plaque for the best original research paper. Application deadline is June 30, 2004. |
| AWHS Overseas Assistance Grant provides assistance with transportation costs (the only program qualifying at SUNY Downstate is the Healthcare in Developing Countries) for up to $1500. |
| Bed and Breakfast program (see glass bulletin board) |

AMSA Programs

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

Paul Ambrose Political Leadership Institutes are: December 5-7, and January 9-11 in Reston, VA. Deadlines are October 27 and December 1. Only one nominee per school is accepted. Go to www.amasa.org/hp/hpli.cfm


Women’s Empowerment Institute January 24-26, 2004

Global Health Political Leadership Institute: Feb. 6-8, 2004 www.amasa.org/global/