MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION IS COMING!
The Middle States site visit team will be on campus May 1-3, 2006. Federal government approval to award student financial aid is tied to our receipt of Middle States re-accreditation.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!
Several of the Student Services Offices (Bursar, Financial Aid, Registrar, Residential Life, Student Affairs, Student Center, Student Health) have added an icon on their websites called, “Make a Suggestion.” We invite you to share your comments on how we can improve services to students.

MATCH DAY
Join us in Alumni Auditorium on Thursday, March 16 at 12 noon. See the MS 4’s and their residency placements.

The PAUL AMBROSE SCHOLARS PROGRAM is sponsored by the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Scholars participate in a 3-day symposium and then in a health promotion/disease prevention education project in their institution or community. Poster in the glass bulletin board. Website www.atpm.org and follow the link for “Career Development/Training.” Application deadline is April 14, 2006.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES
Dr. Steven Friedman of the Department of Psychiatry serves as the Interim Director of Student Counseling, under the general oversight of Dr. Marcia Gerber, the Director of Student Health. Dr. Steven Friedman is available to provide advice and assistance with problems associated with academically related stress or personal problems that might interfere with your performance in school. Dr. Steven Friedman has access to additional specialized referral resources available that will ensure that we are able to provide the type and volume of services provided by Dr. Duprey. All of these contacts are confidential. Dr. Steven Friedman can be contacted by calling 270-1750 or through the Student Health Service (270-1995).

Students may also speak directly with Dr. Lorraine Terracina or Ms. Sophie Christoforou, Assistant Dean and Registrar,

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, Eugene Feigelson, M.D. There are two student representatives on the committee – the president of Medical Student Council (Kelle Oberle) and the president of the MS 4 class (Tamara Dunn). The Committee meets once a month.

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)

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

DAVID E. ROGERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

NIH SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (SRFP)
Open to first, second and third year students. Participants work with senior research scientists located at the Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD or other laboratory facilities near the campus, the Addiction Research Center and the Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore, or the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana. The program runs for 8 weeks. The on-line application is at http://www.training.nih.gov/student/srfp/index.asp Questions may be sent to Rachael Schacherer at schacher@mail.nih.gov Apply as early as possible as there are a limited number of positions available.

The LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA announces the Gina Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowships for summer research. Application and additional information is available at www.lupus.org/research/appdownload.html The stipend amount is $2000 and the deadline is March 15, 2006.

The PISACANO SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM provides educational leadership programs and reimburses a portion of medical school related debt. Students who have made a commitment to Family Medicine and who will enter their MS 4 year in Fall, 2006 may apply. The maximum scholarship award is $28,000. Application is available at www.fpleaders.org. The application deadline is March 1, 2006.

SUNY DOWNSTATE ALUMNI FUND RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
The Alumni Association of the College of Medicine is offering a one-year research scholarship of $25,000 for 2006-2006. Applications are available in the Alumni Office (1-6, BSB) and are due Monday, March 27, 2006.

MS 4 EXTRAMURAL (AWAY) ELECTIVES
The AAMC has a 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.
REMEMBRAND FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS
As it seems that winter weather has arrived, it's a good time to remind you that only President John LaRosa can declare SUNY Downstate closed due to inclement weather. However, the separate colleges or individual course directors may cancel classes due to inclement weather. To learn about the status of classes, check the SUNY Downstate website, or listen to the school closing announcements on the TV and radio, or contact the general operator for SUNY Downstate as described on the more detailed description on the last page of this newsletter.

PFIZER COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT
SUNY Downstate is fortunate to have received an educational grant from Pfizer Pharmaceutical to conduct community health education programs. This is a community education outreach program, and can also be used as a student organization fund-raising opportunity. Each outreach program is envisioned as a 1-2 hour session on a health education topic directed at a target community audience. The audience could be children, teenagers or adults in the borough of Brooklyn. Ideally, the program should be offered in a community location, which is convenient to the target audience, to encourage attendance. Topics or subjects which were funded previously under this grant will not be considered again. For an application form which details more information about the guidelines for submission, please go to the Student Affairs section of the SUNY Downstate website and select student newsletters.

HURRICANE KATRINA NEWS
The Arnold P. Gold Foundation has formed a Katrina Assistance Fund. The Foundation is now requesting proposals for grants of up to $5,000 for service projects in any location where there is a substantial need for assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Such projects may include direct medical aid to evacuees or non-medical assistance to both victims and those adversely affected by this disaster.

All student-initiated projects must include a faculty mentor. The educational institution (medical school or teaching hospital) will be the official recipient of the grant and must possess 501c3 not-for-profit status. No grant funds may be used for institutional or administrative overhead. Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis through 2006. For Information: Go to http://humanism-in-medicine.org

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. Once you submit the proposal to the national office, you will receive your decision within 60 days. Additional information described on a flyer in the glass bulletin board.

NY ACADEMY OF MEDICINE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Essays should address a topic in the history of public health or medicine as they relate to urban health issues; they may consider social or environmental factors in the health of urban populations, institutional histories, or specific diseases. The winner will receive $500. The deadline is April - 4, 2006. For more information, go to www.nyam.org/grants/studentessay.shtml or write to historyessay@nyam.org. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

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

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-DOHI for more information or to register, and email any questions to healthmrc@health.nyc.gov.

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, 2005-May 31, 2006.

JEWEISH MEDICAL ETHICS SUMMER PROGRAM
The Jewish Medical Ethics Summer Program is scheduled from June 27-July 27, 2006 in Jerusalem, Israel. Applications must be submitted via email by Wednesday, March 15, 2006. For an application, contact www.neijs.org or info@neijs.org.

COSTA RICA
The 17th International Course in Tropical Medicine’s Summer Elective in Costa Rica is a 4 week program (July 2-July 28, 2006) for medical students who have completed at least one year of medical school. Instruction is in English. Enrollment is limited to 20 students so early application before May 1, 2006 is recommended. The cost is $1500 plus an administrative fee. Flyer in glass bulletin board. For more information, see
www.medschool.lsuhsc.edu/microbiology/courses_tropical_summer.asp

STEP 2 CLINICAL SKILLS EXAM
Information about discounted hotel rates and transportation from the hotel to the test center is available at http://www.aamc.org/meetings, and then click on “special hotel rates for clinical skills exams”

EPOCRATES is offering a student discount code. If you would like the discount code, please email me.

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 Beth Scallon, Executive Director (221-6160) or Sheri Myers (221-6163).

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE (ACPM), Medical Student Section (ACPM-MSS) are seeking members to become part of a network of Preventive Medicine physicians and residents who are changing the way health care impacts on people. For more information, go to http://www.acpm.org/medstudents.htm

WHY ARE ALL OF THOSE DOORS CLOSED?
Have you been wondering why the corridor and office doors are closed? The fire marshal came by and apparently all of the doors have to be closed to fulfill fire regulations. So it’s not to make life difficult (try opening one of the heavy doors with both hands carrying something) or to make the corridors seem unfriendly – we’re complying with fire laws!

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.

ARE YOU CALIFORNIA BOUND?
In a letter dated February 4, 2005, the Medical Board of California has confirmed that they will accept a 4 week clinical rotation in any of the following clinical subject areas to fulfill their family practice licensing requirement: ambulatory care, community medicine, family practice, primary care, outpatient care, preventive and social medicine, preventive medicine.

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/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. To obtain an access code, email Ms. Anne Shonbrun in the Office of the Registrar.

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 or Ms. Sophie Christoforou. Dr. Terracina and Ms. Christoforou are also available for individual appointments. To schedule an individual appointment with Dr. Terracina, send her an email (Lorraine.Terracina@downstate.edu). 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 Annual Stanley M. Kaplan Medical Student Essay contest awards a cash prize of $500 and two runner up prizes of $250 each. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Deadline June 16, 2006.

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Health Professions promotes student designed and student led projects with a focus on the Special Olympics Health Athletes programs, Special Olympics athletes, as well as the health and well being of all persons with intellectual disabilities. More information is available at www.specialolympics.org/studentgrants. A project may be funded up to $3500 per year.

The Scaife Family Foundation offers fellowships to attend the one week School of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 9-14, 2006) or the one week Institute of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 30- August 4, 2006) at Rutgers in New Jersey. Fellowships will cover tuition, room and meals ($1225); plus a $400 stipend for travel and miscellaneous expenses. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Information booklet in the Office of Student Affairs. Application deadline June 16, 2006.

The Betty Ford Center Summer Institute for Medical Students is a 5 day program at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, C.A. Scholarships will be awarded for one of the following session dates: May 22-May 26; June 5-9; June 19-23; July 3-7; July 17-21; July 31-
AMS End of Life Care Fellowship Program: June 19-July 28, 2006. A 6-week summer fellowship with Horizon Hospice in Chicago, IL, or Vitas Healthcare Corporation in Miami, FL. Fellows receive a stipend of $2100 to cover living expenses. Additional information at www.amsa.org/eol or contact Joan Hedgcock at joan_h@amsa.org. Application deadline April 10, 2006. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

The Scaife Family Foundation, in conjunction with the Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA), is offering a summer program in Chemical Dependency Treatment. Participants receive a $150 per week stipend and a $200 transportation allowance for a total of $650 for three weeks. Room and meals are also provided. IRETA is located in Pittsburgh. Session #1 is from June 12-June 30. Session #2 is July 10-July 28. Application deadline is March 31, 2006. Information brochure and application form in the Office of Student Affairs. Or contact Lois Edmondston at lae19@pitt.edu.

The Scaife Family Foundation announces the National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to be held June 4-8, 2006 at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Scholarships are awarded to medical students interested in specialized training in alcohol and other drug abuse treatment at the National Institute. There is a scholarship that covers tuition, on-campus room and board, plus a $300 stipend to help defray travel expenses. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Application deadline is May 1, 2006. Applications are available at www.uwstout.edu/solutions/ces/ruralada. Email address is applehandsd@uwstout.edu.

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.

This should not be considered a school endorsement. We have received a notice about a 2 week Spanish intensive blending language course which includes 35 hours of formal classroom study plus 10 additional hours of lectures and visits to local hospitals, medical and nursing schools and other health providers. The program is called the Medical Spanish Program in Ecuador with the Centers for Interamerican Studies (CEDEI). Their website is http://www.cee.org/cecuencia/programs/spanish/medical. This is not a school sponsored program and not eligible for malpractice or other coverage from the school. You participate as a private citizen. They charge tuition and we have no information about the quality of the program or its operation.

Bastyr University is offering a 4 week program starting June 26, 2006 in Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Priority application deadline March 1, 2006. www.bastyr.edu/camsummer. There is a tuition charge. We have no information about Bastyr University or about the quality of the program or its operation.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVES are available through CHILD FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL. G 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.

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


Primary Care Leadership Training Program: A weeklong innovative institute. This year's theme is "Learning from Each Other: Cultural Competency in Medicine and Dentistry." Application at www.amsa.org/addm. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

National Primary Care Week October 15-21, 2006 www.amsa.org/programs/npcw/

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 academic 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.