HAPPY VACATION!
All the members of the Division of Student Affairs (Academic Development, Admissions, Financial Aid, Institutional Research and Evaluation, Registrar and Student Affairs) wish you a lovely winter break. Eat, spend time with your family members, and have fun with your friends!

REMEMBER 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.

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 and shuttle van 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.

The holiday season is also well known for increased crime incidents. Do not be a victim. A risky behavior is to speak on your cell phone when walking in public. Pay attention to your surroundings. Report all incidents to University Police.

Note: There is a report of a scam involving gift cards on display racks in card stores. You are advised to purchase your gift card from the store employee.

STUDENT RELAXATION SPACE
This is a reminder that, a number of student areas have been redecorated to create additional and/or improved student relaxation space. The newly decorated areas were planned with the assistance of a student committee. The areas are:
1. Main Lounge in the Student Center
2. The former Cafeteria in the Student Center (renaming contest is being planned by the Student Center Governing Board)
3. The Lobby area next to the 395 Lenox Road entrance into the HSEB
4. Lounge area by the 5th floor carrels, HSEB
5. Lounge area by the 6th floor carrels, HSEB

We would welcome your feedback about how well these newly arranged spaces meet your needs. Your comments, and any comments for further enhancements of this student relaxation space may be emailed to Meg O’Sullivan.

AIRLINE DISCOUNT FOR RESIDENCY INTERVIEWS
The AAMC has renewed an agreement with American Airlines to offer discounts for senior medical students traveling to interview for residency programs. Information concerning the discount is available at the OSR website at www.aamc.org/members/osr/discount.htm. Or, telephone (800) 433-1790 and reference AAMC Index #17603. Valid travel dates are October 1, 2006-May 31, 2007. You are advised to also check discount travel websites and compare your savings for your maximum financial benefit.

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE
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) will work at NIH for approximately one year, beginning July 15 and August 31. The salary for one year is $25,000. Moving expenses and subsidized, on-campus housing is also part of the program. The application forms are available on-line at www.hhmi.org/cloister/pos. Deadline for receipt of completed applications is January 10, 2007.

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. The stipend is $25,000. For more information, go to www.hhmi.org/medfellowships/pos. Deadline January 11, 2007.

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.

AAMC CARING FOR COMMUNITY GRANT
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) announces a funding opportunity, supported by the Pfizer Medical Humanities Institute. There are 3 categories for grant application:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Project</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplement</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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A detailed brochure is available in the Office of Student Affairs. The local application deadline is February 1, 2007, as there must be a SUNY Downstate review and approval before the grant application may be submitted.

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.

**ANESTHESIA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Separate email was already sent to you. PDF posted on the Student Newsletter section of the SUNY Downstate Student Affairs section of the website. Application deadline is January 26, 2007.

**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)

**ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP**

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (Lambarene Schweitzer Fellows Program) offers fourth year medical students (you apply now as a third year medical student) a 3 month experience in pediatrics or internal medicine during May 1, 2007-July 31, 2007 or August 1, 2007-October 31, 2007 in the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene, Gabon. Third year students apply now for this program, which is taken in the fourth year of medical school. Application deadline is December 15, 2006. You must speak French to apply to this program. Flyer in the glass bulletin board. Application available at www.schweitzerfellowship.org/features/lamb or from the newsletter section of the SUNY Downstate Student Affairs section of the website.

**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. The fellowship program’s website is www.SarnoffFoundation.org. Application deadline is January 10, 2007.

**DORIS DUKE CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Program provides one-year fellowships to medical students, who have completed at least two or more years of medical school, to spend an extra year in one of 10 participating medical schools to receive both didactic and ‘hands-on’ mentored clinical research training, beginning July, 2007. Fellows will receive stipends plus health insurance to spend a year conducting clinical research and receiving didactic training.

Additional program information including links to each participating school's web site is at www.ddcf.org/page.asp?pageID=12. Complete an application form electronically. Application deadline is January 17, 2007.

**FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER (FIC) /ELLISSON MEDICAL FOUNDATION AWARDS**

The NIH’s Fogarty International Center is offering a one-year clinical research training experience in NIH funded research centers in developing countries. The fellowship period begins in July, 2007. Applications are available starting August 1, 2006 at www.aamc.org/overseasfellowship. Application deadline is December 8, 2006. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

**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. Over 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 26, 2007. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

**AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR AGING RESEARCH**


**AFAR MEDICAL STUDENT TRAINING IN AGING RESEARCH PROGRAM** (MSTAR) PROVIDES AWARDS FOR STUDENT TO TRAIN AT ACCLAIMED CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN GERIATRICS. INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT www.afar.org. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 7, 2007.

**NEUROSURGERY RESEARCH**

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship (MSSRF) program provides first or second year medical students the opportunity to participate in neurosurgical research in the United States or Canada. The 8-week program has a stipend of $2,500. There are 10 fellowships available. A completed application must be received by NREF by February 1, 2007. A sample application packet is available in the Office of Student Affairs. NREF administers the application process. Their address is nref@aans.org

**VASCULAR SURGERY**

Harvard Medical School announces its Summer Research Fellowships in Vascular Surgery for 10-12 weeks starting June 1, 2007. Interested applicants should submit a personal statement, CV, and 3 letters of recommendation (one to be from a dean/advisor). $5000 stipend. Application deadline is January 10, 2007. For more information, see www.longwoodvascularsurgery.org/vonliebig or email lpradhan@bidmc.harvard.edu.

**PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY EDUCATION**

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 February 1, 2007. To identify departments and/or faculty members with whom you would like to work, go to www.stjude.org/poe/. There is an on-line application at that site. Additional information in the Office of Student Affairs.

**SUNY DOWNSTATE 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 http://sfs.downstate.edu/studentaffairs/newsletters/index.html

The AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE announces their Student Writing Competitions for 2007. The Hoffman Bioethics competition offers awards of $1000, $500, and $250. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Submission by email to
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS POETRY CONTEST
Sponsored by the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine Human Values Program, the deadline for submission is December 31, 2006. Contest rules appear on a poster in the glass bulletin board. Prizes are $300, $200 and $100. Information available at www.neoucom.edu

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, Ms. Sophie Christoforou, Associate Dean or Mr. Jeffrey Putman, Assistant Dean,

SUNY DOWNSATE BRAGGING RIGHTS x 4
SUNY Chancellor John R. Ryan has commended 11 SUNY campuses, including SUNY Downstate, for their inclusion in President George W. Bush’s inaugural Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. More information is available at www.learnandserve.org/about/programs/higher_ed_honorroll.asp

Class of 2008 has a 99% pass rate on the first attempt for Step 1, USMLE

1st place in Northeast Medical School Jeopardy!
In addition to the NIH kudos below, the MS 4 class (Class of 2007) and the College of Medicine proudly announces that the SUNY Downstate team won first place in this year’s Northeast American College of Physicians’ Medical School Jeopardy Tournament! The tournament is sponsored each year by Yale, and was held on September 16. The other medical school teams participating were from NYU, New York Med, Brown, Yale and U Conn. The members of the SUNY Downstate team are: Susan Bard, Katy Burris, David Jang, and Edward Monk. A big round of applause for the team and SUNY Downstate!

Congratulations to members of the Class of 2007 on their selection for the 2006-2007 year
Jeong Choi – NIH Clinical Research Training Program
Karen Ast – NIH Fogerty Ellison Program in India
Christine Rager – NIH Fogerty Ellison Program in Peru

Read about the NIH Clinical Research Training Program at: http://www.training.nih.gov/crtp/index.asp

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

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/supervisor send a letter describing your experience (what you did) and how you performed to the Student Affairs Office (Box 85) for inclusion in your academic file. The letter should be addressed to me (Terracina). The letter must be from your preceptor/attending, not from you, in order to be included in your academic file.

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 Medical Student Council (Michael Seibert) and the president of the MS 4 class (John Chi). The Committee meets once a month.

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 judgement when traveling to and from campus. Avoid walking in the evening hours. University Police has reminds all of us to use good judgement when traveling to and from campus. Avoid walking in the evening hours. Call 270-2626 and the van will pick you up from the station.

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.

**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](http://www.medicalreserve.org) for more information and to register. You may also call 866-NYCDOH1 for more information or to register, and email any questions to healthmrc@health.nyc.gov. http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/em/mrc.html

**WHERE TO GET DIFFERENT TYPES OF LETTERS**

**Attendance Letters**: 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.

**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 Ms. Sophie Christoforou, or Assistant Dean Mr. 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 with Ms. Christoforou, call 270-1107. To schedule an appointment with Mr. Putman, call 270-2187. 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 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 11-June 29. Session #2 is July 9-July 27. Application deadline is March 31, 2007. Information brochure and application form in the Office of Student Affairs. Or contact Mrs. Iburia Scott-Johnson at Iburia@ireta.org

**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVES**

**Child Family Health International**, Go to [www.cfhi.org](http://www.cfhi.org). Their application is at [www.cfhi.org/program_intro.php](http://www.cfhi.org/program_intro.php). 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](http://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.

This should not be considered a school endorsement. We have received a notice about a Spanish language immersion program in Costa Rica. The program is called Special Spanish Program for Medical Professionals in Costa Rica by Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (C.P.I.). Session 1 is from January 8-19, 2007 and Session 2 is from January 22-February 2, 2007. They charge tuition ($1250) and we have no information about the quality of the program or its operation. Registration deadline Dec. 18, 2006. Direct inquiries to Jonle Sedar at gruposmv@cpi-edu.com or visit their website at [www.cpi-edu.com](http://www.cpi-edu.com).


**Medicine in the Wild** elective (March 27-April 20, 2007) is designed for third or fourth year medical students and residents. The cost is $4000. For more information go to [www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/medicineinthewild.shtml](http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/medicineinthewild.shtml) Brochure in the Office of Student Affairs.
AMSA: The Humanistic Elective in Activism, alternative medicine, and Reflective Transformation (HEART) is a fourth year elective (April 2-27, 2007). Cost $950. For more information, go to www.amsa.org/humed/heart/index.cfm

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.