COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
STUDENT NEWSLETTER
Lorraine Terracina, Ph.D.
Dean of Students
February, 2007

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT COUNSELING
We are delighted to announce that our new director of student counseling, Dr. Christine Saunders-Fields, has arrived! A reception to introduce her to the student body is scheduled for later this week, so check your email. Dr. Saunders-Fields is on our email system at Christine.Saudners-Fields@downstate.edu

RESIDENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

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.

A Guide to the Preparation of the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (also known as the Dean’s Letter)
http://www.aamc.org/members/gsa/mspguide.htm
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
https://services.aamc.org/Publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=Product.displayForm&prd_id=146&prv_id=172&cfid=1&cftoken=2D2FD02-86A6-4AF7-A7C88B574CB2C0AE
Charting Outcomes in the Match: Characteristics of Applicants Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty in the 2005 NRMP Main Residency Match
https://services.aamc.org/Publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=Product.displayForm&prd_id=159&prv_id=189
From the AAMC, includes information about Step 1 scores, number of programs on the rank order list, AOA honor society membership, and research accomplishments.

STEP 1, USMLE PASSING SCORE CHANGE!
The passing score has been changed to 185 for all exams taken after January 1, 2007.

SUNY DOWNSTATE ALUMNI FOUNDATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS
2007 Summer Research Fellowships for first year medical students - $3000 for 2 months of work. Application forms are available from the Alumni Office, BSB 1-6. Application deadline is Wednesday, May 2, 2007.

One Year Research Scholarship – a full-time research year during 2007-2008. The stipend is $25,000. Applications are available from the Alumni Office, Room 1-6, BSB Application deadline is

Monday, March 26, 2007. Questions may be emailed to Dr. Martin Salwen at Martin.Salwen@downstate.edu


NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE (www.nyam.org/grants)

DAVID E. ROGERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
The New York Academy of Medicine announces the David E. Rogers Fellowship Program for Summer, 2007. Students who have completed the first year of medical school are eligible to apply. The fellowship carries a stipend of $3500. Applications available at www.nyam.org/grants/rogers.shtml. Email rogers@nyam.org. The application deadline is March 16, 2007.

LOUIS SEAMAN MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS IN MICROBIOLOGY
Four grants will each provide a stipend of $3500 for MD students. The deadline for submission of an application is March 16, 2007. Online: www.nyam.org/grants/seaman/index.shtml Email seaman@nyam.org

FERDINAND VALENTINE MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT IN UROLOGY
Four grants will each provide a stipend of $3500 for M.D. students pursuing basic science or research projects in urology. The deadline for submission of an application is March 16, 2007. Online: www.nyam.org/grants/valetine/student.shtml Email valentine@nyam.org

GLORNEY-RAISBECK MEDICAL STUDENT GRANTS IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
Three grants will each provide a stipend of $3500 for M.D. students. The deadline for submission of an application is March 16, 2007. Applications available from the NY Acad of Medicine. Email glorney-raisbeck@nyam.org

AMA SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
Government Relations Internship Program (GRIP) for medical student members of AMA to enhance their medical education through work in health care policy. You must arrange your own 6-8 internship in advance. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/GRIP or email mss@ama-assnorg for more information and application materials. Application deadline February 15, 2007

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.aptrweb.org and follow the link.
for “Career Development/Training.” Application deadline is April 13, 2007.

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, 2007 may apply. The maximum scholarship award is $28,000. Application is available at [www.fpleaders.org](http://www.fpleaders.org). The application deadline is March 1, 2007.

**JEWSH MEDICAL ETHICS SUMMER PROGRAM**
The Jewish Medical Ethics Summer Program is scheduled from June 26-July 26, 2007 in Jerusalem, Israel. Applications must be submitted via email by Monday, March 12, 2007. For an application, contact [www.neijs.org](http://www.neijs.org) or info@neijs.org.

**STUDENT PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY Conference**

**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 March 30, 2007. For more information, go to [www.nyam.org/grants/studentessay.shtml](http://www.nyam.org/grants/studentessay.shtml) or write to historyessay@nyam.org. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

The Historical Collections of the New York Academy of Medicine Library also sponsors two research fellowships. Visit [www.nyam.org/grants/history.shtml](http://www.nyam.org/grants/history.shtml) for more information.

**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://sls.downstate.edu/studentaffairs/newsletters/index.html](http://sls.downstate.edu/studentaffairs/newsletters/index.html)

**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)

**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.

**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](http://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.

**MS 4 EXTRAMURAL (AWAY) ELECTIVES**
The AAMC has an Extramural Electives Compendium at [www.aamc.org/stuapps/electives](http://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.

**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.

**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 redecorated areas were planned with the assistance of a student committee. The areas are:
1. Main Lounge in the Student Center
2. The former Café 101 in the Student Center (a 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,

**REMINDER 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.

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

**SUNY DOWNSTATE 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 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 2006 Recipients of the Fogerty/Ellison Overseas Fellowships in Global Health and Clinical Research Training:
http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/overseasfellowship/2006recipients.htm

Read about the NIH Clinical Research Training Program at:

**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.

**ALUMNI NEWS**
Dr. Joel S. Levine was recently named chair-elect of the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the largest medical specialty organization and second largest physician group in the United States.

**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!

**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.

**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-DOH1 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

**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 Francis A. Velay Humanism in Medicine Essay Contest presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. First prize $1000, second prize $500, third prize $250. Entry form www.humanism-in-medicine.org Send submissions (must also complete entry form to be considered) to essaycontest@gold-foundation.org. Deadline February 21, 2007.

The Children’s Hospital Los Angeles/Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases has announced their 2007 Summer Oncology Fellowship Program. A weekly stipend of $225 for 6-10 weeks is provided. Reimbursement for travel and housing is offered on a case-by-case basis. For more information, go to www.chla-sof.nant.org. Application deadline is February 28, 2007. Questions may be sent to Ms. Rosa Lopez at rlopez@chla.usc.edu. Application form in the Office of Student Affairs.

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, in Pittsburgh. 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, an application may be obtained from Iburia Scott-Johnson at Iburia@ireta.org.

The Betty Ford Center Summer Institute for Medical Students is a 5-day program at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. Application forms in the Office of Student Affairs. For more information, go to www.bettyfordcenter.org. Email traindept@bettyfordcenter.org Application deadline March 15, 2007.

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**International Health Electives**

**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.

**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. Their global health conference will be April 14-15, 2007 at Stanford University. www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2007

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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

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

End of Life Care Fellowship Program: June 18-July 27, 2007. Application deadline is March 23, 2007. Flyer in glass bulletin board. www.amsa.org/eol. Questions may be emailed to Angelia Bowman at abowman@amsa.org

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.