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

MATCH RESULTS!
Congratulations to the Class of 2007 on their Match results!! The class results are posted in the glass bulletin board. The Match list for this year, and the past ten (11) years are available at the following web address:
http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html

42 students are staying at Downstate for their residency programs, 107 are staying in New York City (5 boroughs), and a total of 132 have opted to stay in New York State for residency!

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT COUNSELING
This is a reminder that we have a new director of student counseling. Dr. Christine Saunders-Fiels has arrived! To schedule an appointment, please telephone 718 270-1408 or email her at Christine.Saunders-Fiels@downstate.edu All appointments and sessions are completely confidential.

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/mspeguide.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&prev_id=172&cfuid=1&cftoken=2D2FD022-86A6-4AF7-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=150&prev_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.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SUMMER EXAMS?
The actual schedule for MS 1 or MS 2 summer comprehensive re-exams is developed by the block directors after the Grades Committee meeting for that particular class year. The dates of the Grades Committee meetings are listed on the academic calendar (see Office of the Registrar website). Final approval to take the exam(s) is granted by the Academic Promotions Committee. Those meeting dates are also posted on the academic calendar.

The dates for the summer re-exams for MS 3 are determined by the clerkship faculty in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar. Final approval to take the exam(s) is also granted by the Academic Promotions Committee. Those meeting dates are also posted on the academic calendar.

RESEARCH HAPPENINGS
Wed. April 11 at 4 pm- Tim Bliss, Ph.D., Division of Neurophysiology, National Institute for Medical Research, London “The Future of the Past: New Perspectives on the Neural Basis of Memory.”

Wed. April 11 is RESEARCH DAY!

Thurs. April 12 at 3:30 pm. Harold Varmus, MD. Nobel Prize Laureate and president. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center will present the Robert F. Furchgott Annual Lecture. Our own Nobel Prize Laureate, Dr. Robert Furchgott will also be in attendance.

AOA ANNUAL LECTURE: Wednesday, April 18 at 4 pm in Alumni Auditorium, Sidney J. Winawer, MD, Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University “When the Doctor is on the Other Side.”

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

STEP 2, USMLE IMPORTANT INFORMATION
A message from the National Boards – if you need to take Step 2, CS for the March, 2008 match, the National Boards is strongly encouraging you to apply for and schedule your exam now. “Traditionally, there has been high demand for testing appointment in the period from September through December. For 2007, demand for testing appointments during this period is expected to be even higher than in past years.” NBME News & Updates, posted Jan. 8, 2007

From the National Boards (again) “While scores for Step 1 and Step 2CS are usually reported within 3-4 weeks after the test date, Step 2CS results are released according to a specific schedule as outlined on the USMLE website…”

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.

OPHTHALMOLOGY One Year Research Opportunity at the New England Eye Center, Tufts University School of Medicine in conjunction with MIT. A background in engineering or computer science is preferred. This is a one-year commitment beginning July, 2007. Stipend $25,000. For more information contact
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PSYCHIATRY?
The Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, and the Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Medicine announce the 5th Dr. Thomas Detre Senior Medical Student Award for a one-month clinical subinternship or research experience with the Dept. of Psychiatry. $1000 stipend. Application deadline May 4, 2007. Go to http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/Psych/MedStudent/DetreAward.htm
Flyer in glass bulletin board. Questions to Dr. Jason Rosenstock at rosenstockjb@upmc.edu

AMERICAN PHYSICIANS FELLOWSHIP is sponsoring Tagilt/birthright Israel. A 10-day program. For more information, go to www.israeloutdoors.com or for pre-enrollment email sarah@apfmed.org

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.

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)

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

SUNY Downstate BRAGGING RIGHTS x 5
Sacktor and Fenton paper named one of the top 10 research papers by Science in 2006!

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 Jung, 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:

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

For more information and application instructions, go to www.citizen.org/hrg/activistcourses/einstein.htm
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. (PDF form posted on the Student Affairs section of the website)

 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.

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.

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.

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 56th session of the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies is being held June 24-29, 2007 at the University of Utah. See www.uuhsc.utah.edu/adas for additional information and application contact slango@utah.edu or (801) 538-4343.

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 15, 2007. Entries should be emailed to maryann.schmidt@uc.edu

The Seafie Family Foundation offers fellowships to attend the one week School of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 8-13, 2007) or the one week Institute of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 15-20, 2007) 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 15, 2007.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVES

Stanford Medical Student Summer Elective in Lhasa, Tibet to study Tibetan Medicine. 4 weeks, $800 program fee plus estimated costs of $2000-$3000. For more information, contact Phuoc Le at the Stanford Medical Center and its University Hospital of Brooklyn. University of Utah. See www.uuhsc.utah.edu/adas

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. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

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

The Annenberg Physician Training Program places medical students at addiction treatment centers around the country for 4-8 weeks. Paid travel expenses, living expenses and a moderate stipend. To obtain an application, email AnnenbergProgram@aol.com or call 212-731-0755. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

AMSA Programs

2008 Heart Elective: The only student run, student designed, student focused 4 week elective. For more information, go to www.amsa.org/humed/heart or contact Alejandra Varela at candela209@gmail.com

Primary Care Leadership Training Program: A weeklong (June 25-29) innovative institute. This year’s theme is “Primary Care Across the Lifespan: Meeting the Challenges of Health Disparities.” Application at www.amsa.org/admm or email abowman@amsa.org Application deadline April 18, 2007


Training Tomorrow’s Teachers Today, Education Leadership Institute at the Univ. of Michigan Medical School. June 24-29, 2007. An intense 5-day experience to provide practical teaching and leadership skills. Application deadline April 16, 2007. Fee to attend is $300. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Email amsa.t4@gmail.com

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.