ITEMS OF NOTE

College of Medicine Awards Day – come and celebrate with the senior class and see all of the awards that are given to graduating students! Reception follows the program. DATE: Monday, May 21, 2007 at 3 pm, Alumni Auditorium

College of Medicine Commencement: Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 4 pm

ARE YOU DOING SOMETHING NICE THIS SUMMER?

If you are a rising second year medical student (current MS 1) and you do 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. Mailing Address: SUNY Downstate, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 85, Brooklyn, NY 11203; or fax to 718 270-7592. You can check if it has been received by going to the Office of the Registrar and checking your academic file.

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.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT COUNSELING

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

STEP 1, USMLE

The passing score has been changed to 185 for all exams taken after January 1, 2007. The National Boards indicated that Step 1 score results for May/June would probably not be released until towards the end of July.

STEP 2, USMLE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you register for a Step 2CK or a Step 2CS in Spring, 2007 during your MS 3 year, you can bring proof of your registration payment (receipt or cancelled check or a copy of your credit card statement) to the Office of Financial Aid, and they will add this expense to your MS 3 budget and increase your eligibility for funding accordingly. The Step 2 registration fee will also be subtracted from your MS 4 budget. However, if you register for Step 2 CK or Step 2CS after July 1, 2007 of your MS 4 year, you do not need to do anything as the registration expense is already included in your MS 4 budget.

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 2CK 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…”

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=159&prv_id=189

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=146&prv_id=172&c fid=1&ctoken=2D2FD022-86A6-4AF7-A7C88B574CB2C0AE

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 Dr. Jay Duker at jduker@tufts-nemc.org. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

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

3rd Annual Mayo Clinic Medical Student Fellowship in Psychiatry – students must be entering their MS 4 year and applying for the Mayo MS 4 psychiatry elective. Instructions posted in glass bulletin board. $1000 stipend. Applications must be filed before September 31.

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

ELECTIVE: Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine announces their Research-Based Health Activism Curriculum for Medical Students will be offered in October, 2007. For more information and application instructions, go to www.citizen.org/hrp/activistcourses/einstein.htm

ELECTIVE: The Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene of the City of New York announces the availability of Public Health and Preventive Medicine electives. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/phmrp/phmrp.shtml or email healthrp@health.nyc.gov

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 Meg O’Sullivan,

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

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.

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

Congratulations to Priya Mahindra, Class of 2008 – NIH Clinical Research Training Program

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.learnandserveserve.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


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.

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.

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, 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.

WHY ARE ALL OF THOSE DOORS CLOSED?
Have you been wondering why the corridors seem unfriendly – we’re complying with fire laws!
University of Utah. See www.uuhsc.utah.edu/ugas For additional information and application contact slangston@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 Scache 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- July 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.

US-China Education and Cultural Exchange Center
Use this site at your own risk – the school does not endorse it. They sent a mailing that they have an on-line language website at www.onlinechineseclass.com which is supposed to be free of charge. They are also offering a 4-7 week program for $890. I will post both flyers in the glass bulletin board.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVES

**Stanford Medical Student Summer Elective in Lhasa, Tibet**

Study Tibetan Medicine. 4 weeks, $800 program fee plus estimated costs of $2000-$3000. For more information, contact Phuoc Le at the Center for Education in Family and Community Medicine (650) 725-5339.

**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 candel209@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.