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, for inclusion in your academic file. The letter should be addressed to: Lorraine Terracina, Ph.D., SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 85, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Our fax number is (718) 270-7592. The letter must be from your preceptor/attending, not from you, in order to be included in your academic file. It must be on letterhead and signed.

In order to determine if your letter has been received, go to the Office of the Registrar during office hours, show your ID card and ask to see your academic file. The letter should be in there if it has been received.

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)

USMLE NEWS

Your scores may now be obtained on-line. Go to the National Boards or USMLE website for more information.

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. Nearly 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 25, 2008. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

SENIOR CLASS NOTES

Questions about ERAS Application Transmission? Consult your myERAS booklet or email Ms. Dawn Froome (Dawn.Froome@downstate.edu)

RESIDENCY INTERVIEWING WORKSHOP FOR MS 4’s

If your department does not offer an interview preparation workshop, make a note to come to a general one on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. with Dr. Michael Lucchesi, Chair of our Dept. of Emergency Medicine and Dr. Jeanne Macrae, Residency Program Director for the Dept. of Medicine. The tips and information will apply to any specialty.

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.

The Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery at Stanford University is interested in resident applicants of diverse backgrounds and invites interested students to do a rotation with them.

The Dept of Medicine at Columbia University has established a research track within their residency program. Go to www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/medicine/residency/tracks.htm for more information.

The NIH offers a combined five-year residency program in Pediatrics and Medical Genetics. For the medical genetics information, go to www.genome.gov/10000987. For Pediatric information, go to www.dccchildrens.com/dccchildrens/for-doctors/sabresidency/general.aspx

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown, PA offers senior surgical elective rotations in a medical student friendly environment. www.conemaugh.org Office contact mbright@conemaugh.org (Ms. Joan Bright)

NIH/FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This is a one year mentored clinical research experience at NIH funded research centers in Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, Haiti, India, Kenya, Mali, Peru, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia.

To learn more, go to www.aamc.org/overseasfellowship Application deadline is December 14, 2007. We are fortunate to have two MS 4 students who have just returned from their Fogarty one year research experience. They are: Karen Ast – NIH Fogarty Ellison Program in India Christine Rager – NIH Fogarty Ellison Program in Peru
The AMA FOUNDATION SEED GRANT RESEARCH Program awards grants of $2500 towards the conduct of small projects in applied and clinical research, led by medical students and residents. Applications must be received by December 3, 2007. Information: AMA Foundation, seedgrants@ama-assn.org or go to http://www.amafoundation.org. Telephone 312 464-4200.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY

The AAAAI is announcing the availability of travel and housing grants to attend the annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA during March 14-18, 2008. This program for medical students is called the Chrysalis Project. To apply, you must complete an application (go to www.annualmeeting.aaaai.org and click on Scholarships/Awards. A faculty letter must accompany the application. Questions may be sent to Ms. Katie Muellenbach (kmuellenbach@aaaai.org) The deadline is Friday, November 16, 2007.

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

You are invited! A medical student currently in the NIH Cloister program will be here in November to explain the program and how to apply. Everyone is invited to this informational session. You do not need prior research experience. It doesn’t hurt to come and listen. Food available too!

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 – we have had students chosen for this program) will work at the NIH for approximately one year, beginning July 15 and August 31. There is a stipend. Moving expenses and subsidized, on-campus housing is also part of the program.

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, too! There is a stipend.

The NIH CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM is a one year program at the NIH for medical students who have completed one year of clinical rotations (you spend the year in-between the third and fourth year at the NIH, 30 students per year are accepted into the program. There is a stipend. Informational brochure in the Office of Student Affairs. Read about the NIH Clinical Research Training Program at: http://www.training.nih.gov/crtpr Application available in October.

We have two students who have experience with this program.

MS 4 Jeong Choi – just returned from the NIH CRTP
MS 3 Priya Mahindra – currently in the NIH CRTP

MEDICAL STUDENT TRAINING IN AGING RESEARCH (MSTAR) PROGRAM

To encourage medical students - particularly budding researchers - to consider a career in academic geriatrics, this program awards short-term scholarships. AFAR has partnered with the NIA and several foundations to continue and strengthen the original Hartford/AFAR Medical Student Geriatric Scholars Program. Guidelines and application for 2008 not yet available. For more information, go to www.afar.org

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 (Susan Cheng). The Committee meets once a month.

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://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html
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
http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html

Charting Outcomes in the Match: Characteristics of Applicants Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty in the 2005 NRMP Main Residency Match
http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html
From the AAMC, includes information about Step 1 scores, number of programs on the rank order list, AOA honor society membership, and research accomplishments.

Charting Outcomes in the Match: Characteristics of Applicants Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty in the 2007 NRMP Main Residency Match
This updates the 2005 report with the 2007 cohort. Compare the two and see if the specialties you are interested in have changed.

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 counseling@downstate.edu All appointments and sessions are completely confidential.
EPOCRATES is offering a student discount code. If you would like the discount code, please email me.

FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE AMA FOUNDATION
Physicians of Tomorrow - $10,000 for rising MS 4 students
Application Available: February 2008
Minority Scholars Award - $10,000 for eligible students
Application Available: February 2008

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS POETRY CONTEST
Sponsored by the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine Human Values Program, the deadline for submission is December 31, 2007. Contest rules appear on a poster in the glass bulletin board. Prizes are $300, $200 and $100. Information available at www.neoucom.edu

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.

PFIZER COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT
SUNY Downstate is fortunate to have received an educational grant from Pfizer Pharmaceutical to conduct community health education programs. There are two grants available, each $500. 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/student_affairs/newsletters/newsletters_medicine.html

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.

MS 1 & MS 2 CARREL COORDINATORS
MS 1 students should report carrel or key problems to Viktoria Nikolenko 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 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.

WHERE TO GET DIFFERENT TYPES OF LETTERS
http://sis.downstate.edu/student_affairs/where_to_get_letters.html

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. Bring the original copy of your summons to the Office of Student Affairs. The court’s final decision prevails. You may need to serve during your vacation period.

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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, 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.

Baylor College of Medicine has announced the 5th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Award.
* The first prize recipient will receive a cash prize of $1,000.
* The second prize recipient will receive a cash prize of $500.
* The third prize recipient will receive a cash prize of $250.
The first-prize poem will be submitted to a major medical periodical for consideration for publication. The deadline for submission is December 31, 2007. For more information, email massey@bcm.edu.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVES

We have no information about the quality of the following programs. Enroll in them at your own risk.

Crossing Senegal 2008 Program dates are June 23-July 8. Led by 2 former Peace Corps volunteers, the program is a travel and educational program. Extended stays for volunteer work or field study can be facilitated. www.interculturaldimensions.org

Global Service Corps (Worldwide) programs in Tanzania and Thailand address the challenge of healthcare in the developing world. For more information, contact Mayia Holliday at operations@globalservicecorps.org

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. Application deadline March 1. Go to www.map.org