

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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Dean of Students

May, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. LUKE'S ROOSEVELT is sponsoring an Emergency Medicine Student Symposium on Saturday, May 3, 2008. RSVP sredmedstuds@yahoo.com. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

AOA ANNUAL LECTURE: Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 4 pm, Alumni Auditorium. AOA is the medical school honor society. Topic: Getting into the Flow, by Edward D. Harris, M.D., Executive Secretary of AOA

NORTHWESTERN is sponsoring a residency fair on Friday, May 9 from 4-8 pm PDF flyer with more information on the student newsletter section of the Student Affairs website.
www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/education/visiting_students

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: Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 3 pm, Alumni Auditorium**

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT:
Wednesday, May 28, 2008 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2008! RESIDENCY MATCH LIST

We had a wonderful Match Day and wonderful placements for the MS 4 class. See the list in the glass bulletin board next to the Office of the Registrar. The same list, without names is posted on the Student Affairs website.

LIBRARY COMMONS Feedback is Sought – If you have not already provided comments about the Library Commons project, please do so. See the Library website for more details and the blog.

Are you interested in **Rural Health and Anesthesia**? The Committee on Rural Access to Anesthesia Care is offering a scholarship program to pay for expenses for travel and lodging for a rural anesthesia elective. The program is described in more detail in a PDF file on the Student Affairs, student newsletter page.

http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/newsletters/newsletters_medicine.html

NIH CLINICAL ELECTIVES PROGRAM offers electives (extramural credit) in 21 areas. For the list and more information, go to www.training.nih.gov/student/cep/index.asp.

There is a clinical elective in Medical Informatics at <http://lhncbc.nlm.nih.gov/training> and click on “Clinical Elective for Medical and Dental Students” Flyer in glass bulletin board.

SODEXHO INTRODUCES PREPAID PICK-UP LUNCH – Avoid long lines by ordering and paying for your lunch ahead of time. Just fill out the order form, available in the blue drop off box at the entrance of the cafeteria, and prepay before 10:30 am. Only sandwiches can be preordered/prepaid.

USMLE NEWS

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

ONE YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The NIH YEAR-OFF TRAINING PROGRAM – for more information go to www.training.nih.gov/student/Pre-IRTA/irtamanualinterim.asp

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAMS

SUMMER (NON-RESEARCH) PROGRAMS

The **SCAIFE FAMILY FOUNDATION** offers fellowships to attend the one week **School of Alcohol and Drug Studies** (July 20-25, 2008) or the one week **Institute of Alcohol and Drug Studies** (July 13- July 18, 2008) at **RUTGERS IN NEW JERSEY**. Fellowships will cover tuition, room and meals (\$1295) 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 18, 2008.

JOBS

AMSA – Perot Systems Summer Internship in Texas.
Application deadline May 4, 2008.
<http://www.amsa.org/programs/CIT.cfm>

Department of Ophthalmology at New England Eye Center, Tufts-New England Medical Center

Research Assistant – Send resume to: Johanna M. Seddon, MD, Tufts-New England Medical Center, 750 Washington Street,

#450, Boston, MA 02111 Job description in the Office of Student Affairs jseddon@tufts-nemc.org

Student Intern -Send resume to: Johanna M. Seddon, MD, Tufts-New England Medical Center, 750 Washington Street, #450, Boston, MA 02111 Job description in the Office of Student Affairs jseddon@tufts-nemc.org

CONTESTS, PRIZES, AWARDS

STANLEY M. KAPLAN MEDICAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST, sponsored by the University of Cincinnati. Cash prizes. Flyer in glass bulletin board. Entries should be emailed by June 20, 2008 to maryann.schmidt@uc.edu

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

PFIZER COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT

SUNY Downstate is fortunate to have received an educational grant from Pfizer Pharmaceutical to conduct community health education programs. There is one remaining grant available for \$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://sfs.downstate.edu/student_affairs/newsletters/newsletters_medicine.html

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT COUNSELING

This is a reminder that we have a director of student counseling, Dr. Christine Saunders-Fields. To schedule an appointment, please telephone 718 270-1408 or email her at counseling@downstate.edu All appointments and sessions are completely confidential. I strongly recommend the relaxation exercises for everyone! The service is free of charge.

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

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

SENIOR CLASS NOTES

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/fordocctors/subresidency./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 jbright@conemaugh.org (Ms. Joan Bright)

SUNY DOWNSTATE BRAGGING RIGHTS x 7

Congratulations to **Noriyuki Murakami, MS 3** on his selection for the **NIH Fogarty/Ellison** one year clinical research program in Thailand!

Congratulations to **Lillian Guenther, MS 2** on her selection for the **NIH Howard Hughes Medical Institute** one year research program at the NIH campus!

Congratulations to **Ahmed Zihni, MS 3** on his selection for the **Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship** at UNC Chapel Hill!

Congratulations to **Melanie Wong, MS 3** on her selection for the **Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship** at the Univ of Iowa!

Congratulations to **Leslie Marino, MS 2** on her selection for the **CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship** program!

1st place in Northeast Medical School Jeopardy for the second year in a row!

In addition to the kudos below, the MS 4 class 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 for the second**

year in a row! The tournament is sponsored each year by Yale, and was held on September 29. The other medical school teams participating were from NYU, New York Medical College, U of Mass, U of Vermont, Yale and U of Conn. The members of the winning SUNY Downstate team are: Avraham Gurwitz, Emily Levine, Anthony Visioni, Kristina Wittig, and Thomas Seufert (alternate). A big round of applause for the team and SUNY Downstate!

Congratulations to the Class of 2009, for a 100% pass rate on the first attempt of Step 1, USMLE; **and** to the Class of 2008 with a 99% pass rate on the first attempt for Step 1, USMLE. For the Class of 2008, their 99% first attempt pass rate compares with a 93% first attempt nationally. For Step 2, USMLE, the Class of 2007 had a first attempt pass rate of 97% compared to 95% nationally.

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.

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 KNOW WHERE TO GO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY? HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONE FINDER

Find out if your address is located in an evacuation zone. Go to www.NYC.gov/hurricanezones

WHERE TO GET DIFFERENT TYPES OF LETTERS

http://sls.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.

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.

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!

MS 1 & MS 2 CARREL COORDINATORS

MS 1 students should report carrel or key problems to Viktoriya 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.

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 Sophie Christoforou, or Assistant Dean 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 or with Mr. Putman, call 270-2187 or send an email. 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.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVES

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

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.

Learn Spanish in Costa Rica

www.cpi-edu.com Brochures in the Office of Student Affairs

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

AMSA Programs

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

AMSA is accepting applications for a rural medicine program that runs from June 23-June 27, 2008. You do not have to be a member of AMSA to apply. Application deadline is May 16, 2008. 20 students will be selected. The program is being hosted by the Univ. of Iowa. For more information, email 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.