ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2009!

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.

APRIL IS CAREER MONTH!
Although primarily for MS 3’s, the departmental information sessions are open to medical students from any class year. The schedule is posted in the student affairs glass bulletin board and runs through April 23.

AOA LECTURE (AOA is the Medical School Honor Society):
Wednesday, May 6 at 4 pm in Alumni Auditorium. Marc Goldstein, MD, the Matthew P. Hardy Distinguished Professor of Reproductive Medicine and Professor of Urology at Weill Cornell Medical College will speak on, “Triple Threat: Clinician, Research, Teacher – Is It Still Possible?”

JUNIOR AOA ELECTED – Congratulations to the junior AOA (medical school honor society) members elected from the Class of 2010. List posted in the Student Affairs glass bulletin board.

The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) wants you to know how exciting their field is. We have a brochure and DVD in the Office of Student Affairs for you to look at. Also, go to their website at www.VascularWeb.org

MS 2 NEWS: All MS 2 students will have to do a Basic Life Support (BLS) Recertification during Spring, 2009 before starting clerkships in July, 2009. The course took prior to starting medical school expires this year and you need current certification for your hospital rotations. A conveniently available American Heart Association course at KCH is being offered on several dates for $70 (recertification). The information is in the Mini Course schedule of the Student Center. The dates of the course are available at the following URL (BLS PDF)
http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/misc/index.html

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION: The NYS Society of PMR has a monthly lecture series at the Hospital for Special Surgery. The lectures are free and dinner is provided. http://www.nyspmr.org or email David Cheng, MD (chengd@nyspmr.org)

DISCOUNTED SOFTWARE FOR STUDENTS
(Announcement from SUNY Downstate’s Information Services)
The full version of Microsoft Office is now available through the New York State Microsoft Select Program at significantly reduced pricing for SUNY students and for work-at-home by faculty and staff. The Student Select program requires no funding or distribution resources by your campus. [Note: We are listed as Brooklyn, Health Science Center on the pull down menu.]

This program is separate from Select programs for institutional acquisitions and is an alternative to the Microsoft Campus Agreement Student Option.

Microsoft Office is available for both PC (Windows) and Apple Macintosh platforms. Windows Vista upgrades are also available through Select. This and other software negotiated for SUNY such as Adobe, SPSS and Quark are available on-line from University at Buffalo UBMicro IT Support Services, the HP designated SUNY distributor for the Microsoft Select Program.

Individuals may order these products from our secure web site at http://www.ubmicroswny.com/

CONFERENCES
No notices this month

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

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Bristol, England Program – deadline for MS 3’s to apply is May 1, 2009. Program is in Spring, 2010. Application on the student affairs newsletter section of the website.

BOTUSA has a medical student fellowship to provide third or fourth-year medical students the opportunity to participate in CDC research in Botswana, as well as gain experience with clinical medicine and culture in a developing country. For more information, visit the American Medical Student Association web site.

AMSA International Health Opportunities List
http://www.amsa.org/global/ih/intllist.cfx

IFMSA Research Exchange Projects
http://www.ifmsa.net/public/searchredb.php

IFMSA Clinical Exchange Projects
http://www.ifmsa.net/public/ecscopeselect.php

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAMS

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY announces the Campaign for America’s Kids, an opportunity to explore a career in child and adolescent psychiatry. 12 weeks (may be reduced) and a stipend of $3500 (pro-rated if less than 12 weeks). Clinical or research training. Application deadline April 10, 2009. Go to http://www.aacap.org/cs/students/summerfellowship

SUMMER (NON-RESEARCH) PROGRAMS

ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION: Faculty and Student Initiated Projects The Gold Foundation support inventive ideas to promote more compassionate medical care and caregivers. Our foundation receives and supports a number of unsolicited proposals from students, residents and faculty to develop and support projects related to humanism in medicine. Projects have included, research, lectures, curriculum development, community outreach, cultural competency, and publication of literary writings related to the practice of humanistic medicine.
The SCAIFE FAMILY FOUNDATION offers fellowships to attend the one week School of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 19-24, 2009) at RUTGERS IN NEW JERSEY. Fellowships will cover tuition, room and meals ($1320) 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 25, 2009.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY announces the Campaign for America’s Kids, an opportunity to explore a career in child and adolescent psychiatry. 12 weeks (may be reduced) and a stipend of $3500 (pro-rated if less than 12 weeks). Clinical or research training. Application deadline April 10, 2009. Go to http://www.aacap.org/cs/students/summerfellowship

ANNENBERG PHYSICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM IN ADDICTIONS is a 4 week program where you have the opportunity to be “admitted” to a substance use disorder treatment program. The program is for students in their first two years of medical school, and there are 24 positions. Sites are available in Iowa, Colorado, Michigan and Florida. Reimbursement for travel is provided and a stipend of $1000 for the 4 week program. To apply, go to www.annenbertraining.com. Flyer in glass bulletin board.

CADAVER PROSECTION Course AUGUST 2009 NATIONAL HUMAN CADAVER PROSECTION PROGRAM August 5 – 6, 2009 at the Indiana University School of Medicine – Northwest. APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2009 *** http://medicine.iu.edu/body.cfm?id=4951&oTopID=225

CONTESTS, PRIZES, AWARDS
No announcements this month

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The US Schweitzer Fellows Programs provide community service fellowships for a service project addressing unmet health needs in a local community agency or under the supervision of a mentor. For more information go to www.schweitzerfellowship.org and select US Programs.

Rising MS 4 NEWS (Class of 2010)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) offers a variety of short-term clinical rotations and research elective opportunities to highly qualified medical students. http://www.cc.nih.gov/training/students/clinical_electives.html

The CDC’s Epidemiology Elective Program (Epi Elective) is a 6 to 8 week rotation for senior medical students. Participants have an opportunity to learn while working with CDC epidemiologists to solve real-world public health problems. http://www.cdc.gov/ceis/applyceis/elective.htm

Montefiore Elective, “Research Based Activism and Advocacy” course is being offered October 5-30, 2009. Application deadline is Friday, May 29, 2009. Flyer in the student newsletter section of the Student Affairs website.

The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) wants you to know how exciting their field is. We have a brochure and DVD in the Office of Student Affairs for you to look at. Also, go to their website at www.VascularWeb.org

Johns Hopkins Hospitalist Program subinternship . For more information see the website at http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/gim/training/Subl_rotation.html.

To apply for the rotation, contact Emma Sullens at esullens1@jhmi.edu and say that you are interested in the Johns Hopkins Hospitalist Sub-Internship program.

The Northwestern McGaw residency training programs have planned a Residency Program Showcase on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The showcase will take place at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Conference Center from 12-4 pm. Registration is free and on-line at www.finberg.northwesternedu/education/visiting_students

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: The NYS Society of PMR has a monthly lecture series at the Hospital for Special Surgery. The lectures are free and dinner is provided. http://www.nyspmr.org or email David Cheng, MD (chengd@nyspmr.org)

RESIDENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

Residency Match List
See the 2009 Residency Match list in the glass bulletin board next to the Office of the Registrar. The residency match lists for the last 14 years is posted on the Student Affairs website. (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 2007 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. This updates the 2005 report with the 2007 cohort. Compare the two and see if the specialties you are interested in have changed.

Results of the 2008 NRMP Program Director Survey http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html From the AAMC, what residency program directors look at to decide who to invite for interview and what they look at for ranking. Organized by specialty. A must read!

Roadmap to Residency: From Application to the Match and Beyond http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/index.html


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. Access has now been made easier by using the same access to MCAT, AMCAS and other AAMC sites.

Careers in Medicine has released a new tool called Residency Preference Exercise. This exercise helps medical students identify criteria important to them in selecting a residency program and, using that information, searching for and rating programs on how well the program fits those criteria.
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.

SCHOLARSHIPS
AMA Foundation Scholarships – www.amafoundation.org
Minority Scholars Award – deadline April 15
Physicians of Tomorrow – deadline May 29

GENERAL INFORMATION

MS 3 NEWS: Epidemiology Elective For Senior Medical Students at the CDC – offered September through early June. Flyer in glass bulletin board.
To take the elective Spring, 2010: All application materials must be postmarked by May 30, 2009 of the applicant’s junior year.

MS 4 NEWS: NIH Clinical Electives Program offers electives (extramural credit) in 21 areas. For the list and more information, go to http://www.cc.nih.gov/training/students/clinical_electives.html
There is also a clinical elective in Medical Informatics at http://lhnbc.nlm.nih.gov/training and click on "Clinical Elective for Medical and Dental Students” Flyer in glass bulletin board.

MS 4 NEWS: US-Mexico Border Health Scholars Program is a 4 week elective offered by the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Go to //steer.uthscsa.edu for more information and a downloadable application.

THE NIH SUPPORTS RESEARCH CAREERS BY REPAYING STUDENT LOAN DEBT
The NIH is now accepting applications for its extramural Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs). The LRPs repay up to $35,000 of educational loan debt annually for individuals who commit to conducting at least 2 years of qualified biomedical or behavioral research at a nonprofit institution of their choice. You must hold a Ph.D or MD to be eligible to apply. Visit www.lrp.nih.gov for more information.

SENIOR CLASS NOTES

MS 4 EXTRAMURAL (AWAY) ELECTIVES
The AAMC has an Extramural Electives Compendium at http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/electives/start.htm 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.

DIGITAL MONITOR AND POSTER GUIDELINES
from the Office of Institutional Advancement
Digital Monitors
As part of Downstate's campus communications efforts, Biomedical Communications has placed digital signage monitors in strategic locations across the campus.
Guidelines and a submission form for submitting digital signage announcements are now available at http://www.downstate.edu/ia/signage.html Requests for posting on the digital monitors can also be included with items submitted to the Announcements Newsletter.
We encourage departments and staff to work with Biomedical Communications to develop announcements for the digital signage monitors; its staff of designers can help you create visually interesting posts to draw attention to your message (hourly rates apply; submit a requisition to Biomedical Communications with your copy).

Posters
Please note that posters are no longer allowed in the UHB and Basic Sciences Building lobbies, and will be removed if placed there.
A posting "cube" option is now available in the lobby of the Health Science Education lobby at 395 Lenox Road for departments that want to display hardcopy posters. Submit requisitions and poster information directly to Biomedical Communications. Flyers may not be tacked on the cubes; posters on easels or placed on the floor at this location will be removed.

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.

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.

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-NYCDOH1 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

EPICRATES is offering Epocrates Essentials to you. To check if your handheld device is compatible, to www.epocrates.com/products/essentials/requirements.html You are allowed one download per year up to four years. Email me to receive the URL link. You will be taken to a product demonstration/log in page and then to a product demonstration. After viewing the demonstration, you may download Epocrates Essentials.

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. Keith Williams, 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 Allison) and the president of the MS 4 class (Jessica Wong). The Committee meets once a month.

SUNY DOWNSTATE BRAGGING RIGHTS x 3
Congratulations to the Class of 2009 for a 99% first attempt pass rate on Step 2CK!
Congratulations to Samar Mehta, MS 3 on his selection for the NIH Fogarty/Ellison one year clinical research program in Uganda!
Congratulations to Paul Kogan, MS 2 on his selection for the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill!

SAFETY REMINDER
University Police has reminded 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.

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 Deans Christoforou or 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.

Unite For Sight's High Impact Volunteer Abroad Volunteer Abroad in Summer, Fall, Winter, or Spring:
http://www.uniteforsight.org/volunteer-abroad India, Ghana, and Honduras

Unite for Sight has published its international internship opportunities at www.uniteforsight.org/volunteer-abroad. This is not a school sponsored program and not eligible for malpractice or other coverage from the school. You participate as a private citizen. There is also a conference scheduled for April 18-19, 2009 at Yale Univ

How Do I Apply? The application as well as complete details about Unite For Sight's international opportunities are available at http://www.uniteforsight.org/volunteer-abroad

Who Is Eligible To Volunteer Abroad? Volunteers are 18 years and older, and there is no upper age limit. Unite For Sight welcomes volunteers who may not have previous health or eye care experience. Volunteers receive all necessary training from Unite For Sight so that they are able to assist eye doctors with community eye outreach programs. Unite For Sight also welcomes volunteers to participate as photographers and filmmakers.

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 all 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.

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

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.

CROSSING CULTURES SENEGAL 2009
This is not a school sponsored program and not eligible for malpractice or other coverage from the school. You participate as a private citizen.

Crossing Cultures offers a stimulating travel and educational program focused on the French-speaking Republic of Senegal, West Africa. The program dates for the 2009 Crossing Cultures program are June 29 – July 14. It will be ID’s 20th program to Senegal.

Led by two former Peace Corps volunteers, this well-established program appeals to people in and out of academia. It works well for those who want to experience family life and community projects in the rural areas of this diverse nation, and for those with special interests in dance and music training, environment, medicine, government, agriculture, language or education and health projects.

The Crossing Cultures group is small, no more than five, allowing the leaders to tailor activities to the participants’ interests. Reasonable cost. Extended stays for volunteer work or field study can be facilitated. For more information, contact:
Janet L. Ghattas, General Director
Intercultural Dimensions, Inc.
PO Box 391437
Cambridge MA 02139
USA
Voice: 617 864 8442
E-mail: janet.ghattas@gmail.com
Website: www.interculturaldimensions.org