ANNOUCEMENTS

MATCH DAY!
Join us in Alumni Auditorium on Thursday, March 18 at 12 noon. See the MS 4’s and their residency placements.

REDUCED HOTEL RATES for Step 2CS
To assist students with their travel costs for the Clinical Skills Exams, the AAMC has negotiated a special rate for examinees at hotels within close proximity of each of the exam sites. Hotel and transportation information for each location is below; most of the hotels provide transportation for examinees from the hotel to the exam site (excluding the LA Hilton). Please visit the web site for more information:
http://www.aamc.org/meetings/clinicalskills/hotelrates/start.htm

STEP 1, USMLE PASSING SCORE for 2010
The Step 1 Committee of the National Boards decided to raise the three-digit score recommended to pass Step 1 from 185 to 188. The new minimum passing score will be applied to Step 1 examinations for which the first day of testing is on or after January 1, 2010.

THE CAREER OF RADIATION THERAPY
For more information about Radiation Therapy, visit www.rtanswers.org

MEDICAL STUDENT SENIOR ELECTIVE IN HIV PSYCHIATRY: The American Psychiatric Association sponsors this one-month elective at several locations around the country. The application deadline is March 31, 2010. To apply, go to http://psych.org/Resources/OfficeofHIVPsychiatry/HIVRelatedprofessionaleducation/MinorityMedicalStudentElectiveinHPVPsychiatry.aspx. Additional information may be obtained from Diane Pennessi (dpennessi@psych.org)

CDC EPIDEMIOLOGY ELECTIVE PROGRAM gives MS 4 student an introduction to public health, preventive medicine, and the principles of applied epidemiology, all under the mentorship of experienced CDC epidemiologists. For an elective rotation during June-Dec of the MS 4 year, apply by April 15 of the MS 3 year. For an elective rotation during Jan-May of the MS 4 year, apply by May 30 of the MS 3 year. To apply and for more information, go to www.cdc.gov/EpiElective

GREATEST GIFT, INC is seeking motivated medical students to head up a nationwide organ and tissue donation awareness campaign. For more information go to the temporary website of http://sites.google.com/site/greatestgiftinc/ to see what the Greatest Gift is all about.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN CADAVER PROSECTION PROGRAM August 3-5 at Indiana University School of Medicine. Application deadline April 15, 2010. http://medicine.iu.edu/body.cfm/?id=4951&oTopID=225

ZIPCAR: NOW AT DOWNSTATE
Zipcar, offers a convenient and environmentally friendly alternative to owning an automobile. FSA has partnered with Zipcar to bring cars-on-demand at Downstate. Two dedicated Zipcars, a Toyota Prius and a Honda CRV, are located in the State Garage on E34th Street. Low rates start at $11 per hour or $77 per day includes gas and insurance (plus tax)! Using your iPhone, Blackberry, or their simple on-line reservation system you can book Zipcars throughout the Zipcar network… from Mini Coopers to Pick-up Trucks, Mini vans to BMWs!

Downstate students are able to sign up for just $25/year! A savings of 66%. Even more cost effective when you share your rides for common local road-trips, errands and clinical rotations! Once a member of Zipcar, you’ll have access to the 2 exclusive SUNY Downstate Medical Center vehicles that live on campus as well as the company’s network of more than 6,000 vehicles throughout North America and the United Kingdom, and the 2000 cars living in New York alone.

Already a prior Zipcar Member? If you joined Zipcar before the Downstate program, you can re-register as a Downstate affiliate and receive the DMC rates (your annual membership will be pro-rated and any credit due will be added to your Zipcar account. Your use then gets included in this DMC program. Just log in to your Zipcar account and search/select the SUNY Downstate affiliate group.

More info - visit the FSA Zipcar website: http://www.downstate.edu/fsa/zipcar.html
Sign up now - visit Zipcar website at: http://www.zipcar.com/downstate

CAREERS IN MEDICINE announces the release of a revised Medical Specialty Preference Inventory, a self-assessment tool that measures your interests and likelihood of entering each of 16 specialties. For more information about and to take the MSPI-R, visit www.aamc.org/careersinmedicine and click “Log in.”

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 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)

The SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY (SVS) wants you to know how exciting their field is. Go to their website at www.VascularWeb.org

ONE YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS
(no entries)

RESEARCH INFO & SUMMER RESEARCH

Reminder: For advice and assistance, the Medical Student Research Advisor is Dr. Frank Barone (Frank.Barone@downstate.edu)

Dr. Robert Karp (Pediatrics) is looking for a summer research assistant to investigate the relationship, if any, between energy (calorie content per serving) of foods and their cost for energy (cost/100 calories) AND nutrient content for 9 vitamins and mineral and cost (cost/100 calories). For more information, send an email to Robert.Karp@downstate.edu
OB/GYN: Greenville Hospital (Greenville, South Carolina) is offering an eight week summer research clerkship in Women’s Health which includes $2800 stipend, free housing (subject to availability), selection from 19 faculty mentors, copy of EndNote to keep after completion of the clerkship. Application deadline is April 2, 2010. (brochure is incorrect) Brochure posted in newsletter section of the website.

The SUMMER STUDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM AT BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER (Springfield, MA) offers students the opportunity to participate in medical research that is part of a larger project but with a research experience that is designed for a student under the direction and mentorship of a full time faculty member of Tufts University School of Medicine or the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dates are June 1-August 6. Stipend is $3500 and free housing. Application available at www.baystatehealth.com/cbr/SummerScholar.html Application deadline March 19, 2010

CHINESE AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY (CAMS) SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM for medical students may be basic science or clinical in nature but must be completed in a 10 week time frame. Preference to proposals studying problems related to the health problems of the Chinese. Stipend up to $1000 per month. To apply, go to www.camsociety.org/summerprogram.html Deadline April 30, 2010

CUPID is Cancer in the UnderPrivileged, Indigent, or Disadvantaged and is a basic science and clinical program from June 21-August 6 at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Stipend is $5000. To apply online, go to http://oncweb1-vm. onc.jhmi.edu/cupid_new/?

The NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE has several summer program opportunities. To read about them, go to http://www.cancer.gov/researchhandfunding/cancertraining/atnci/summerprograms.

SUMMER (NON-RESEARCH) PROGRAMS

The SIMON KRAMER SOCIETY EXTERNSHIP IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY provides a 6-week experience in Radiation Oncology. Stipend $1500. Dates are flexible during June-August. Applicants must be first or second year students. Application form available from the student newsletters website. Application deadline March 8, 2010. (brochure is incorrect) Brochure posted in newsletter section of the website.

WAYNE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (Honesdale, PA) is offering summer internships for first year medical students. The program provides some hands on experience in a clinical setting for 5-8 weeks in a primary care office plus 1-2 week mini rotations in ER, surgery, OB/GYN, pediatrics, hospital medicine. For more information go to www.wmh.org/wmche or email education@wmh.org Deadline: April 1, 2010

CHINESE AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY (CAMS) SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM for medical students may be basic science or clinical in nature but must be completed in a 10 week time frame. Preference to proposals studying problems related to the health problems of the Chinese. Stipend up to $1000 per month. To apply, go to www.camsociety.org/summerprogram.html Deadline April 30, 2010

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION offers a Summer Externship Program for a medical student to work alongside a family physician. You should be a member of a family medicine organization to apply. The stipend last year was $2000. If you are interested in applying for this externship please contact: New York State Academy of Family Physicians/Foundation, 260 Osborne Road, Loudonville, NY 12211, or email fp@nysafp.org or call (800) 822-0700.

JOBS

Work Study – assistant to update web site information about student research opportunities. Email Dr. Frank Barone for more information (Frank.Barone@downstate.edu)

CONTESTS, PRIZES, AWARDS

The University of Cincinnati announces the Stanley M. Kaplan Medical Student Essay Contest. PDF announcement in the student newsletter section under the Student Affairs tab. Cash prize of $500, and two runners up prizes of $250. Deadline June 30, 2010. Entries are to be submitted to Mary Ann Schmidt (maryann.schmidt@uc.edu)

LEGIBLE SCRIPT, sponsored by the University of South Florida is a national literary journal for essays, short fiction, poetry, personal statements and art/photography. Entries must be accompanied by a $5 submission fee that is paid only once. Prizes are $300 (first place), $225 (second place), $150 (third place). Deadline April 1, 2010. Email thelegiblescript@gmail.com with any questions

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation announces a Help for Haiti Fund. Service grants of up to $3000 will be available to medical students who want to participate in relief projects to help the victims of the Haitian earthquake, which may be either direct medical aid or non-medical assistant (for example, providing healthcare information to displaced persons, assistance overstressed relief workers, helping to rebuild structures, etc). Funding is up to $300/wk for a maximum of 10 weeks to offset travel and living expenses. Application posted on the student newsletters website.

RESIDENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

Charting Outcomes in the Match: Characteristics of Applicants Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty in the 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. There are now 3 reports that you can use for comparison – 2005, 2007 and 2009

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.

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

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 reside...
Step by Step Guide to Applying to a Neurology Residency Program from the American Academy of Neurology
http://www.aan.com/go/education/students/medical/step

SCHOLARSHIPS & MONEY

The Chinese American Medical Society (CAMS) offers a scholarship to first, second or third year medical students. To apply, go to www.camsociety.org/scholarshipprogram.html Deadline April 30, 2010

The AMA FOUNDATION offers several scholarships. Applications are now available. Contact the Office of Financial Aid. See www.amafoundation.org/go/amafscholarships

Minority Scholars Award: 12, $10,000 scholarships for first or second year medical students from groups historically underrepresented in the medical profession. Deadline: April 15

Physicians of Tomorrow: $10,000 scholarships for third year medical students

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS & ISRAEL SUMMER PROGRAM
The Jewish Medical Ethics Summer Program is scheduled from June 23-July 21, 2010 in Jerusalem, Israel. Applications must be submitted via email by Monday, March 15, 2010. For an application, contact www.neijs.org or info@neijs.org.

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

AMSA International Clinical Exchange Program

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

STUDENT COUNSELING
Student counseling is offered by Dr. Christine Saunders-Fields. To schedule an appointment, please telephone 718 270-1408 or email counseling@downstate.edu All appointments and sessions are completely confidential. I strongly recommend the relaxation exercises for everyone! The service is free of charge.

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 University of North Carolina Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery announces the establishment of a 6 year ACGME approved comprehensive integrated residency in cardiothoracic surgery. For more information go to www.med.unc.edu/ct

NIH CLINICAL ELECTIVES PROGRAM offers electives (extramural credit) in 21 areas. For the list and more information, go to www.training.niaid.nih.gov/student/cep/index.asp. There is also a clinical elective in Medical Informatics at http://lhncbc.nlm.nih.gov/training and click on “Clinical Elective for Medical and Dental Students”

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/eis/applyeis/elective.htm

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

SAFETY REMINDER
University Police 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 morning hours. Call 718-270-2626 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 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.
EPOCRATES is offering Epocrates Essentials to you. If you lost the earlier email and want the files again, email Lorraine.Terracina@downstate.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.

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 a student in school, or in good academic standing, etc. may be obtained directly from the Office of the Registrar. 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.

... 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.

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 UMicro 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.ubmicrosuny.com.

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 from the Dept. of Physiology and Pharmacology, 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 (Maureen Dirscherl) and the president of the MS 4 class (Kaito Poeth). The Committee meets once a month.

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. 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.

SUNY DOWNSTATE BRAGGING RIGHTS x 4

Congratulations to the College of Medicine – 150 years old and still going strong!

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 3 on his selection for the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill!

Congratulations to Aldo Rinaldi, MS 3 on his selection for the one year Alumni Research Fellowship - he’s in New Zealand!

Returnees to SUNY Downstate Noriyuki Murakami, MS 4 from the NIH Fogarty/Ellison one year clinical research program in Thailand!

Lillian Guenther, MS 3 from the NIH Howard Hughes Medical Institute one year research program at the NIH campus (cloister program)

Ahmed Zihni, MS 4 from the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill

Melanie Wong, MS 4 from the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at the Univ of Iowa
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 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.

AMSA Programs
SUNY Downstate does not provide any financial assistance for students to participate in AMSA programs.
(none this month)

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!

CACHAMSI: A Medical Spanish Institute in Ecuador offers clinical rotations and structured medical Spanish classes in Ecuador (for a fee). For more information, go to www.cachamsi.com

Unite for Sight has published its international internship opportunities at www.unifeorsight.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.

There is also a conference scheduled for April 18-19, 2009 at Yale University

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. Go to www.map.org