ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AWARDS DAY – JOIN US!
Monday, May 23, 2011 at 3 pm, Alumni Auditorium, HSEB

VIRTUAL MENTOR
The American Medical Association’s online journal of Ethics, Virtual Mentor, is looking for student editors/authors. Melanie Mund, MS 4, has an article in the April 2011 edition (http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2011/04/fred1-1104.html). If you are interested in learning more, contact Phillip Perry (philip.perry@ama-assn.org)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MS 4’s!
For a fabulous Residency Match. The list is posted in the glass bulletin board outside of the Office of the Registrar.

CHICAGO RESIDENCY SHOWCASE
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine will have its 5th annual Residency Program showcase on Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm for members of the Class of 2012. For additional information about the showcase, go to the link below http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/AWOME/visiting-students/residency-showcase/

The Visiting Clerkship Program of Harvard Medical School is a diversity program. Information posted on the newsletter section of the student affairs website.

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

GERIATRICS career information
Local Geriatric Mentoring Program www.americangeriatrics.org/health_care_professionals/trainees/find-a-mentor/

Geriatrics career information, including profiles of geriatricians www.americangeriatrics.org/health_care_professionals/trainees/

Information for medical students www.americangeriatrics.org/health_care_professionals/trainees/student_resident_chapters/list_of_current_student_chapters

American Medical Student (AMSA) Geriatrics Interest Group www.amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage/About/Committees/Geriatrics.aspx

ONE YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS
No entries this month

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

No entries this month

SUMMER (NON-RESEARCH) PROGRAMS

The SCAIFE FAMILY FOUNDATION offers fellowships to attend the one week School of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 17-22, 2011) at RUTGERS IN NEW JERSEY. Fellowships will cover tuition, room and meals ($1390) 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, 2011 For more information, go to http://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu/

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
No entries this month

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE
Arnold P. Gold Foundation: Faculty and Student Initiated Projects http://humanism-in-medicine.org/intros/gStudentInitiated.html

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
AMSA International Health Opportunities List http://www.amsa.org/global/ih/oppps.cfm


SCHOLARSHIPS & MONEY

NIH HELPS ADVANCE RESEARCH CAREERS
Through Student Loan Repayment Programs The National Institutes of Health (NIH) fosters the careers of thousands of scientific researchers through its extramural Loan Repayment Programs (LRP). The LRP’s two-year award repays up to $35,000 per year of educational loan debt for individuals who commit to conducting two years of qualified biomedical or behavioral research at a nonprofit or government institution. http://www.lrp.nih.gov/about_the_programs/index.aspx

NATIONAL MEDICAL FELLOWSHIPS: Need Based Fellowships http://www.nmfonline.org/programs.html

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. Most schools now use VSAS.

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

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

Community for Children: At the Border and Beyond is a 4 week elective on the Texas/Mexico border in South Texas’ Lower Rio Grande Valley, committed to fostering compassion for the poor. For more information, go to www.communityforchildren.org

The UNC at Chapel Hill Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery is pleased to announce an approved integrated Six Year Thoracic Surgery Training Program. For more information, go to www.med.unc.edu/ct

Residency Information Resources

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 2009 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.

Residency Match List
See the 2011 Residency Match list in the glass bulletin board next to the Office of the Registrar. The residency match lists for the last 15 years is posted on the Student Affairs website. http://sls.downstate.edu/student_affairs/residency/placement.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 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.

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 https://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/cim/ 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 “register” button on the bottom of the page.

Careers in Medicine has a 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.

The Careers in Medicine newsletter, Choices, is available from the Careers in Medicine website (https://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/cim/choicesnewsletter/)

The newsletter provides important information about residency and career choice topics.

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April, 2011 spotlights Preventive Medicine
January, 2011 spotlights Medical Genetics
November, 2010 spotlights Hospital Medicine (hospitalist)
August, 2010 spotlights General Surgery
April, 2010 spotlights Internal Medicine–Pediatrics
January, 2010 spotlights Nuclear Medicine
October, 2009 spotlights Psychiatry
August 2009 spotlights Pathology
April, 2009 spotlights Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
January, 2009 spotlights Emergency Medicine
October, 2008 spotlights Neurology
August, 2008 spotlights Otolaryngology (ENT)

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 phone 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.

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.

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

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.

WHERE TO GO FOR...
Curriculum Changes – The Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (CEPC) of the Faculty of the College of Medicine is now chaired by Dr. Lee Eisner of the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. New clinical and basic science faculty members have been recently appointed along with two student representatives from each medical school class. The committee meets once a month and welcomes feedback on current and proposed future curriculum issues, including all future curriculum changes and evaluation.

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 (Hamerton Jeanty) and the president of the MS 4 class (Mazyar Ghanaat). The Committee meets once a month.

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.

SUNY DOWNSTATE BRAGGING RIGHTS
Congratulations to Simon Fitzgerald, MS 3 on his selection for the NIH Fogarty/Ellison one year clinical research program in China!

Congratulations to Rita Abdelmessih, MS 3 on her selection for the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at Columbia University!

Returnees to SUNY Downstate
Samar Mehta, MS 4 from the NIH Fogarty/Ellison one year clinical research program in Uganda!
Aldo Rinaldi, MS 4 from the one year Alumni Research Fellowship in New Zealand!

Lillian Guenther, MS 4 from the NIH Howard Hughes Medical Institute one year research program at the NIH campus (cloister program)
Paul Kogan, MS 4 from the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill
Leslie Marino, MS 4 from the CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program

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 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.

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.
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 Dean Christoforou or Dean Putman, call 270-2187 or send an email to each directly. 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.

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!

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.

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

CROSSING CULTURES SENEGAL 2011
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 2010 Crossing Cultures program are June 27 – July 13, 2011.

Led by two former Peace Corps volunteers, this 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 ten, 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
E-mail: jthand@aol.com
Website: www.interculturaldimensions.org