Dear Accepted Student:

I wish to congratulate you on your acceptance to the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. Admission to medical school is always a cause for celebration because it represents the opportunity to realize a wonderful and fulfilling career. Downstate is an institution with a long and well-recognized commitment to education, to the health of its community, and to the furthering of scientific discovery.

I am particularly happy to welcome you to the school’s Integrated Pathways Curriculum. The curriculum that you will enter in August is the result of several years hard work by faculty and students and builds on our tradition of excellence in medical education through its emphasis on active learning of both clinical and foundational science throughout all four years. This curriculum will assure that our students are well equipped to address the healthcare issues and needs that face our patients in this era. Downstate has over 150 years of experience as the first School of Medicine to link with its own hospital to educate medical students. Today, we have a multitude of clinical sites to train our students, including a full spectrum of hospitals and outpatient practices that care for economically and culturally diverse groups of patients. These environments are important in providing outstanding clinical exposure for the future physician.

You already know that we are affiliated with a variety of clinical sites, including Kings County Hospital, which has one of the busiest emergency rooms in the United States. Downstate Medical Center’s University Hospital is fully equipped with the latest technology to deliver the highest level of care to the people of our community. There is no doubt that the illnesses you see in our patients prepare you for any specialty that you might choose to enter. Our graduates are viewed as clinically outstanding by the programs they enter. Could it be any different, given their wealth of clinical experience?

This commitment to continuous learning and to science-based medicine is infectious. Downstate graduates constitute the 12th highest number in terms of active and inactive faculty of medical schools in the United States which attests to the caliber of our students, faculty, and education. So, whether you wish to practice high quality medicine with the latest scientific advances, or whether you yourself wish to make or to teach those advances, Downstate’s valued heritage ensures it is an ideal environment to learn those skills.
I am most pleased to be at Downstate and to work with students and faculty to continuously improve our educational environment. If you should choose to pursue your Doctor of Medicine degree at Downstate, I would look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our community.

Sincerely,

Carlos N. Pato, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean of The College of Medicine
Professor of Psychiatry