

## A Word from the Dean



Dear students,

Though it might seem ages ago, Match Day is merely a few weeks behind us, and the smiling faces of our fourth-year students are still very clear in my mind. It seems we have a real tradition on our hands, one that includes our own Dean Gruppuso “jazzing” up an already festive celebration.

I am proud of our fourth-year students, so many of whom will be joining highly selective residency training programs in some of our country's finest schools. The most common destination was Massachusetts, with Rhode Island and New York tied for second. Several students are also heading to Pennsylvania, California, and Missouri, among many other states. For more detail on the match statistics, including, specialty choice, be sure to read Dean Gruppuso's message in this issue of the *Pulse*.

Some important lectures are taking place this month. Professor Troy Duster of New York University delivered the annual Barnes lecture on the topic of “Drug Arrests, DNA, Research and Race: What's the Connection?” as part of Public Health Research Day on April 11. Dr. Jeffrey M. Drazen, editor in chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, will deliver an AOA-sponsored lecture on April 18. And Dr. Frank Gonzalez-Crussi, author of *On Being Born and Other Difficulties*, will deliver the fifteenth annual Harriet W. Sheridan Literature and Medicine Lecture. I urge you to attend.

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## Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso

*Associate Dean for Medical Education*

The recent results of the residency match for our Class of 2007, a great success on the part of our students, have led me to reflect on the role of the medical school and the curriculum in preparing students for life after graduation.

One of the striking features of this year's match is the reversal of a four-year trend in declining numbers of students choosing primary care disciplines. Over the last several years, 52-54% of students nationally have chosen among careers in primary care disciplines (defined as medicine, pediatrics, med/peds, family medicine, and ob/gyn). Last year, only 38% of our students matched in one of these areas. This year, the number was 56%. The increase was largely accounted for by across-the-board increases in medicine (from 18% in '06 to 25% in '07), pediatrics (10 to 14), med/peds (1 to 5) and family medicine (5 to 7). The areas that showed a significant decline were the surgical specialties (11 to 8%) and emergency medicine (8 to 3). A one-year “trend” is of questionable significance, but these changes were rather unexpected.

I can think of nothing about the medical curriculum, advising system, student selection or staffing that can account for these fluctuations in career choice. I do not believe that our medical school should be in the business of directing students' career choices. We do not have, for example, a state-funded mandate to train primary care physicians for our region. However, there are a number of ways that a medical school can influence

students. Perhaps most often discussed is the role of financial aid in reducing cumulative educational debt, with increasing debt directing students towards high-earning specialties, away from those requiring long training periods, and away from academic careers.

Another way that a medical school can influence students' career choices—though not in any particular direction—is to provide students with objective data and accurate information pertaining to such things as opportunities, life style, etc. Our recently arrived Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Brian Zink, will have an influence on both of these areas. In his previous position at the University of Michigan, Dr. Zink served as Assistant Dean for Medical Student Career Development. He is helping Alex Morang to work towards instituting a system at our own institution, similar to the one he developed at Michigan that will aim to provide students with “full disclosure” information pertaining to specific careers beginning in the first year of medical

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school. Dr. Zink is also a co-investigator of a study aimed at characterizing students' perceptions of various medical careers. This study is based on the hypothesis that students' misperceptions can influence their career choices.

There will be more on all of this in upcoming months as we work to bolster the system for making our students well informed and fully equipped to make that critical career choice during and just after the third year. For now, **congratulations to the Class of 2007 and best wishes for success in your chosen fields.**

## Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer

Director

The 2006-07 interview season for standard and postbaccalaureate applicants has officially ended. Thanks to all the students who faithfully attended the morning sessions and led hospital or campus tours on each of the 17 interview days. You are all amazing!

Mark your calendars for the Second Look Program, which will take place on April 26-27, 2007. The program allows accepted applicants a glimpse of both the formal and informal aspects of the medical school. This is your opportunity to meet your future classmates, and all current medical students are invited to participate in some aspect of the program. If you are involved in extracurricular activities or student organizations that enrich medical student life at Brown, please contact Amy Martin Webster (before she contacts you!) if you'd like to participate.

Two Financial Planning Workshops are scheduled for April 3 and April 10. These sessions are designed to give practical financial advice to the graduating MD'07 class. Topics include: the basics of money management, tax planning strategies, insurance considerations, financial goal-

setting and personal budgeting issues. We are delighted to have a member of the MD'03 class (Dr. Michelle Conroy) join us to speak about her experiences as a resident and talk on the topic of "What I Wish I Had Known". Our other presenters are Kathy Baer, Janet Marcantonio, CFP and Vice President at Merrill Lynch, James Scanlan, CFP at Patriot Financial Group and Kamran Kahn, CPA. If you are an MD'07 student and haven't already registered, please visit: <http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/CIS/survey/form.php?surveynumber=344>. If you are unable to attend the workshops, but would like the handouts, please email Eileen\_Palenchar@brown.edu.

Thank you to the MD'07 students who have scheduled yourselves for the financial aid exit meeting. Please remember to gather and review

information from your lenders or loan servicers and bring all correspondence and exit materials to this meeting. Please also remember to bring contact information for at least three individuals who will know your address after you graduate. If you have any questions about the exit meeting, contact Carol Chace at extension 3-1142.

We were delighted to have so many students attend the recent information session on service and scholarship opportunities available through the **National Health Service Corps (NHSC)**. The focus of the NHSC is on recruiting primary health care professionals to deliver health care in underserved communities. Our thanks go to MaryAnn Miller from the Department of Health for a dynamic presentation and to Amy McIntyre, MD'08, for speaking about her

## essay contest

**The University of Cincinnati, Department of Psychiatry, announces the Fifteenth Stanley M. Kaplan Medical Student Essay Contest for medical students.**

Entries may include topical essays, case reports, review articles, or original research that was conducted in medical school for which the student is first author.

Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, knowledge of psychiatry, style, and contribution to understanding important problems in any of the biological, psychological, or social dimensions of psychiatry.

The winner will be awarded a cash prize of **\$500.00** and two runners-up will be awarded **\$250.00** each.

There is no entry application and no standard format or length restriction for entries. All entries should be submitted electronically. Each entry should be a single file that includes a title page with the student's contact information (must include both email address and phone number). In addition, the file name for the entry should include the student's last name. If a student would like to include a cover letter, this should be included in the same file as the entry submission.

Entries should be emailed by **June 15, 2007** to [maryann.schmidt@uc.edu](mailto:maryann.schmidt@uc.edu), or if you have questions, call 513-558-4866.

experience as a member of the NHSC and a participant in the Rhode Island SEARCH summer program. If you missed this session and would like the materials, please contact Carol Chace at 3-1142.

Lastly, don't forget the **financial aid application deadlines** for 2007-08...the deadline for completing the FAFSA and the Need Access forms is April 1, 2007. The deadline for our receipt of all other forms is April 16, 2007. When completing the FAFSA, remember to use the BMS federal school code of E00059.

## Office of Women in Medicine

Debra Abeshaus

*Director*

This year's **Women in Residency Fair** will be held on **Thursday, April 12th, 5:30 – 7:00 PM at the Brown Faculty Club, 1 Magee Street**. Please save the date for an informative and lively gathering. The event offers women medical students the opportunity to learn more about residency and career paths from the perspectives of women faculty and housestaff. Develop your professional network, and enjoy great conversation and an hors d'oeuvre buffet. **RSVP** by email to Kathleen\_Haslam@brown.edu or call 863-7960/2450. For details, please visit the OWM website: <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html>.

**The Rhode Island Medical Women's Association (RIMWA)** invites you to save the dates and participate in the following special events in May.

**RIMWA's Ninth Annual Physicians Artists' Exhibit** will take place **May 7-19, 2007** at the Dryden Galleries Ltd./ Providence Picture Frame Company, 27 Dryden Lane, Providence. RIMWA welcomes medical students to submit their art work for exhibit and to attend the opening night reception on May 7th. Past exhibitions have included paintings, sculpture, baskets, quilts, jewelry and

photography. For more information, email Meghan E. Turcotte at mturcotte@rimed.org.

**RIMWA's Annual Meeting and 26th Anniversary Celebration** will be held on **Monday, May 14, 2007**, at the Brown Faculty Club, with a reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by a dinner—program at 7:00 p.m. **Susan Cu-Uvin, MD**, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Director of the Immunology Center at the Miriam Hospital, will be honored as the **2007 Rhode Island Woman Physician of the Year**. Please email Debra\_Abeshaus@brown.edu if you would like to attend this special evening.

## PLME

Hilary Sweigart

*PLME Manager*

Welcome to spring everyone. Be on the look out for information from the PLME Senate about voting for next year's Senate Officers. This is YOUR opportunity to make a difference! So consider getting involved and running for office.

**Freshmen:** The **4th Freshman Whole Patient Program** will be held on **April 18 at 5:30 PM** at the Faculty Club. Dr. Emily Harrison, of the Department of Family Medicine, and her patient will discuss the doctor-patient relationship. Dr. Harrison is very involved in health care in **Honduras**. So if you want to find out more about international health, we look forward to seeing you there! **Please RSVP to Joan\_Fullerton@brown.edu**. Freshman attendance at this event is required unless you have discussed a conflict with your advising dean.

**Sophomores REMINDER:** **PLME Educational Plan** along with a copy of your signed concentration forms are due to the PLME Office by **April 16**. Stop by Arnold Lab 124 for assistance or call 863-3133.

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### April 11

Managing Asthma in a Critical Care Setting (lunch provided)  
12:00-1:00 pm, Rm. 291

### April 12

Women in Medicine Residency Fair  
5:30-7:00 pm at Brown University Faculty Club, One Magee Street, Campus

### April 18

AOA Lecture with Jeffrey M. Drazen, MD  
"Full Research Data Disclosure-Lessons from the Vioxx Story"  
4:00-5:00 pm at Salomon, Rm. 001

Papaya Workshop with Dr. Melissa Nothnagle  
6:30-7:00 pm

### April 19

Pediatric Subspecialty Panel  
12:00-12:50 pm at Eddy Auditorium (Rm. 291)

### April 20

PACC meeting—last meeting of the year (lunch provided)  
12:00-1:00 pm, Place: TBA  
email Kirsten@brown.edu for info

### April 23

Class of 2007 Dinner with Dean Adashi  
6:30-8:00 pm at Maddock Alumni Center, Brian & Lanpher Rooms

### April 24

Sheridan Lecture with guest speaker Dr. Francisco Gonzalez-Crussi  
4:00-5:00 pm at Smith Buonanno, Room 106 followed by reception and book-signing

### April 27

PHR - Human Rights and Advocacy Speaker Series - Final Event with Susannah Sirkin, the Deputy Executive Director of Physicians for Human Rights. Lunch will be served!  
12:00-1:00 pm at BMC, Rm. 202

# opportunities

The **2007 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program** is now accepting applications for the 6th annual **Paul Ambrose Scholars Program** where you will develop skills and knowledge taught by our nation's experts to become an effective leader and change agent within your school and community. This program strives to engage graduate clinical student leaders in building new visions, models, and experiences for health professions education. Students are required to participate in two key aspects of the program: a **three-day Symposium** and a **health promotion/disease prevention education project** from June 21-24, 2007 in Washington, DC. Qualified applicants are medical and dental students, graduate nursing students, third- through fourth-year pharmacy students, or graduate physician's assistant students. Applicants must have the equivalent of five years of post-secondary education by May 2007. Students must be currently enrolled in a U.S. accredited program. **Applications are due by April 13, 2007.** For more information and examples of past student projects, please visit the APTR web site at [www.aptrweb.org](http://www.aptrweb.org) and click on "**Training Programs**". For questions or additional information, email [training@aptrweb.org](mailto:training@aptrweb.org) or call (202) 463-0550 x137.

The **Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR)** is accepting applications for 3 new stipend-supported fellowships at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the **Preventive Medicine & Public Health** fellowship program. These positions will begin in the summer of 2007 for one to two years, as titled below:

- Assessing Genomic Tools for Disease Prevention
- Arthritis: Further Defining Epidemiology and Impact
- Improving the Quality of Clinical Genetic Testing—Genomic DNA Reference Materials

This program provides leadership training in public health practice and policy to master's, doctoral and post-doctoral level graduate students; preventive medicine and primary care residents; and early career professionals (with a minimum of a master's degree) in a variety of disciplines. **Applications are due by close of business April 30, 2007.** Applicants must be U.S. citizens or hold a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S. Detailed information and application materials are available at [www.aptrweb.org](http://www.aptrweb.org). For questions

or additional information, please email [training@aptrweb.org](mailto:training@aptrweb.org).

**Medical Students for Choice (MSFC)** is an organization dedicated to ensuring that women receive the full range of reproductive health-care choices, including abortion care. A **Reproductive Health Externship (RHE)** is available through MSFC to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year medical students or residents who are interested in obtaining clinical exposure to abortion care. This program supports 65-75 medical students per year and can be completed for elective units or as an additional educational experience during school break. Up to \$1,000 in funding is offered to help cover expenses incurred during the externship. Further information, including the online catalog of host facilities and the RHE funding application, are available at [www.ms4c.org/extern.htm](http://www.ms4c.org/extern.htm), or you may call 215-625-0800. Funding applications are accepted year-round on a first-come, first-served basis and must be received by MSFC at least one month prior to the start of the scheduled externship.

Interested in summer study in Vermont? The **Summer Medical Program** offered by the **University of Vermont College of Medicine** has courses for medical, graduate, post-baccalaureate, and undergraduate students. This program allows students to immerse themselves in a specific content area. Courses offered are Medical Gross Anatomy, Neuroscience, Medical Physiology, and Medical Pharmacology. For more information, contact Healthcare Advisor, Beth Taylor-Nolan at [Beth.Taylor-Nolan@uvm.edu](mailto:Beth.Taylor-Nolan@uvm.edu) or call 800-639-3210. Details are also available at <http://learn.uvm.edu/summermed/>.

A new **Scholar Award** for 4th year medical students is available through the **Department of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in L.os Angeles**. This is a one-month long program offered between July and November 2007 for students to work with Faculty Physicians in Trauma/ICU, Vascular, Transplant, or General/Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery. Successful applicants will be awarded a \$1,500 stipend for the month. Deadlines are rolling, but completed documents must be received two months prior to the desired start date. Contact Kristin Martinez at 310-423-8762 or by email at [surgicalaward@cshs.org](mailto:surgicalaward@cshs.org) for more information.

## PLME

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**A DAY ON COLLEGE HILL**—Please join us on **April 18, 10–11:30 a.m. in Leung Gallery** for the PLME Reception as part of A Day on College Hill. This annual event is for high school seniors offered admission to the program for the Class of 2011. Our student panel consists of **Emily Lau '09, Stefan Lallinger '08, Frank Crespo '08, George Turini MD'09, and Monica Lucero MD'07**. Save the date and stop by to welcome the visiting students and their families.

**ALL STUDENTS**—Save the date!! **May 2, 12:00–1:30 p.m.** at the Faculty Club (during reading period). We are delighted to invite ALL PLME students to consider attending a **Whole Patient Program Luncheon open to ALL PLME STUDENTS** with **DR. EDWARD MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF HOSPICE CARE**. *Seating is limited, so a reservation is required.* Please respond to Hilary\_Sweigart@Brown.edu, 863-9790 if you wish to reserve a seat. We'll have a great luncheon buffet, so take a study break! Sign up today!

*Seniors mark your calendar*—the medical school's **Awards and Prizes Ceremony**, which includes the awards to PLME seniors, will be held on **Friday, May 25 at noon** in Andrews Dining Hall; and the **PLME Graduation Reception** on **Saturday, May 26** at 5:30 p.m. in Leung Gallery when PLME pins will be distributed to all graduating seniors. Be sure to bring your family along to these events.

Will you be in Providence this summer? The Office of Summer and Continuing Studies will offer an array of credit courses, June 17–August 3. If you would like to review the opportunities, visit [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing\\_Studies/](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing_Studies/). A few offerings that may be of interest include:

- BN001 The Brain: An Intro to Neuroscience
- BN0160 Experimental Neurobiology
- CH0033 Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure

- CH0035 Intro to Organic Chemistry
- MA0009 Intro to Calculus, Part I
- PH0003/4 Basic Physics
- SP0031 Spanish for Social Service Applications

## PLME Senate

Carly Seidman

*Co-President*

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable spring break! I am pleased to update you with the exciting events that the PLME Senate is organizing for the rest of the semester!

First-years: Wednesday, April 18 is the date of our next Whole Patient Program—it will be held from 5:30–7:00 p.m. at the Faculty Club. Dr. Emily Harrison of the Department of Family Medicine and her patient will be speaking. Dr. Harrison also has a strong interest in international health and will talk about her work in Honduras. This is sure to be a great program!

We have some other exciting news on the Whole Patient front—for the first time, the program will be open to all PLME students who wish to attend—freshmen through seniors! Our guest speaker will be Dr. Edward Martin, who will be addressing hospice care. The program will take place on May 2 from 12:00–1:30 p.m. at the Faculty Club, and lunch will be served. All who wish to attend will be asked to RSVP—be on the lookout for emails announcing this special event! If you have any questions, please contact our Whole Patient Chairs, Alma Guerrero and Bo Wong.

A House MD marathon is also in the works for this month, back by popular demand! We will be showing several episodes of the television program and there will be plenty of snacks. Date and location TBA. If you have any suggestions for this event, please contact our Social Chairs, Maya Barsky and David Fan.

Angela Yang, Community Service Chair, has been organizing visits to Hasbro in

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## residency training

For 3rd and 4th year medical students interested in residency training in Philadelphia, visit the **OPEN HOUSE and RESIDENCY RECRUITMENT FAIR** on **Saturday, May 19, 2007**, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Biomedical Research Building, 423 Curie Boulevard, Philadelphia. An overview of the PENN Medicine Training Program will be presented at this event. Participants will have the opportunity to meet department chairs, program directors, faculty members, and current residents. Contact Michelle Wells Lockett at 215-7846-6658 or at [miwells@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:miwells@mail.med.upenn.edu) for more information.

Interested in Emergency Medicine? UCSF is announcing a new Emergency Medicine Residency program in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2008. Training will be at UCSF Medical Center, a world renowned leader in healthcare and innovative medicine, and at San Francisco General Hospital, the only level one trauma center in San Francisco and San Mateo County. For further information about the Emergency Medicine Residency Program or to do a clinical rotation as a medical student at one of their training sites, please visit the UCSF website at [www.ucsf.edu/emergmed](http://www.ucsf.edu/emergmed) or email to [emresidency@ucsf.edu](mailto:emresidency@ucsf.edu).

## PLME Senate

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which students have been doing arts-and-crafts with children in the waiting room. If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile opportunity, please contact Angela!

As always, we are seeking entries for our Housing and Volunteer newsletters. Contact Eric Mao (housing newsletter) or Ana Gustafson (volunteer newsletters) if you have any postings related to housing or volunteer opportunities.

That's it for now—as always, please contact me or Jenna if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the Senate. We wish you all the best as the semester nears its close and look forward to seeing you at all of our upcoming events!

## Student Health Council

Courtney Olson

As spring break comes to a close, the time has arrived to face the final exams of the year. You may be comforted to

learn that study skills do not come naturally for most people. The following is a list of suggestions from medical students who have become experts in developing strategies for studying.

"I am very methodical about studying. I make a list of everything I need to know, and then I make sure to cover all of the information."

"I try to exercise for at least 20 minutes before I begin studying."

"I put on my PJs, sit at my desk, throw my hair up into a messy 'do ("study hair"), and chew gum."

"I write summary notes of all PowerPoint slides from class."

"I contact friends in advance to plan a fun event following the exam so that I have something to look forward to while studying."

"I try to take short naps every few hours if I'm studying all day."

"I do my best to stay away from caffeine the night before an exam."

## A Word from the Dean

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I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and productive spring. And to the Class of 2007, our best wishes go with you!

Sincerely,



Consider using some of these skills during your last few weeks of classes. If you are in need of academic support, PLME students can contact [http://www.brown.edu/Student\\_Services/Resource\\_Center/home/index.php](http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Resource_Center/home/index.php), and medical students can contact <http://bms.brown.edu/students/asp>. If you think your academic problems may be due to other personal reasons, contact the Student Health Council (<http://bms.brown.edu/students/shc/home>) for more information about peer counseling and advocacy services.

# the pulse

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