

the pulse

The Brown Medical School Student Affairs Newsletter

Vol. 24 No. 1
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A Word from the Dean



Warm welcome to all as we kick off the 2006-2007 academic year! Let me extend especially heartfelt greetings to the Class of 2010.

Indeed, the Class of 2010 is worthy of some description. With an enrollment of 92, it is the largest class ever in the 31-year history of Brown Medical School. Thirty-three students were admitted by way of the standard route (fully three times as many as last year); 48 students joined us via the PLME pathway; six students were admitted through the postbaccalaureate track; three, all graduates of Rhode Island institutions, were admitted through the Early Identification Program; and two were admitted as MD/PhD students. While the class is evenly divided along gender lines, approximately one in five students is a member of a minority group traditionally underrepresented in medicine. Finally, I am confident and proud that this class is as competitive as that of any of our peer schools.

It is exhilarating to take stock of the milestones that have been reached over the past year and a half. The educational facilities in the Biomedical Center Building have been substantially upgraded with plans underway for a phase II and space expansion.

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Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso

Associate Dean for Medical Education

I would first like to welcome Brown Medical School's Class of 2010. They are the inaugural group for our new pre-clerkship curriculum. I'm especially looking forward to their becoming involved in the curriculum redesign process. They will be occupying the "front row seats." Their unique experience will be invaluable as the process goes forward.

A considerable amount was accomplished over the summer that relates to curriculum development and implementation. All of the Curriculum Redesign Working Groups have determined a course of action and are meeting regularly. A retreat involving Working Group heads, students and key faculty and administrators will take place in late September. Planning for the first year, second semester is on track, and work on the second year is in its early stages. The retreat will launch our course for the next year, which will be critical to long-term decisions regarding the character and goals of the comprehensive redesign. There will be more to come in future *Pulse* editions, of course.

I would like to acknowledge two groups of students who participated in curriculum redesign this summer. The first group, which focused on a number of important, general aspects of the curriculum, included Josh Lakin, Shankar Levine, Steve Rougas, and Jack Rusley. They focused, among other things, on curriculum for *Doctoring*, content for a USMLE prep web site, and incorporation of "high yield content" into the first-semester Integrated Medical Sciences course.

The second group consisted of two BMS students, Matt Brumbaugh and Zac Ginsberg, and two Rhode Island College

(RIC) nursing students, Julia Clinker and Claire Rodriguez-Annoni. With the support of Dr. Jane Williams, Dean of the School of Nursing at RIC, Láura Vares, Director of Continuing Education Programs for the Central Rhode Island AHEC and me, they took part in an interdisciplinary project to develop a curriculum module suitable for both our medical curriculum and RIC's nursing curriculum. The outcome of the project, aimed at fostering the development of knowledge, attitudes and communication skills essential for effective inter-professional practice in healthcare, will be described in an upcoming column.

As I write this, we are a few days away from first-year orientation. Though there is some "pre-performance anxiety" setting in, I am looking forward to seeing the first tangible results of our curriculum redesign project. I would like to thank, in particular, all of the students who have participated in this endeavor so far. And I would like to encourage continued and expanding student participation, including that to come from the Class of 2010.

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Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang
Director

A hearty welcome to the Class of 2010! On Monday, August 21st, the class of 2010 started their three-day orientation to the medical school with a variety of activities and programs. On August 24th, these 92 men and women began their formal medical education at Brown Medical School. 48 students completed their undergraduate education at Brown University and 13 students are Rhode Island residents. Of the class, there are 46 men and 46 women, 48 PLME's, 6 Post-bacs, 33 standard route of admission, 3 EIP's, and 2 MD/Ph.D's. A wonderful and diverse class!

I am currently planning new programs and workshops for the year and would welcome any suggestions or ideas for programs that would be of interest to you.

Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase
Director

Second-Year Curriculum Changes

For the 2006-07 academic year, a significant number of changes are being instituted that will strengthen the second-year Medical School curriculum and lead to more effective teaching and greater curriculum integration.

Bio 262: Neurologic Pathophysiology
In the fall semester, Neurologic Pathophysiology becomes a three-week course section of Bio 350: Integrated Pathophysiology/Pharmacology. This change allows students to study neuro-pathophysiology in a more concentrated manner. The new course schedule also enables students to focus on and integrate better pathophysiology, pathology and pharmacology throughout the semester.

Bio 350: Integrated Pathophysiology/Pharmacology: Nutrition Section
During the neurologic patho-physiology block, the nutrition section of Bio 350: Integrated Pathophysiology/Pharmacology becomes a two-week mini course consisting of five afternoon lectures and an hour examination. The new lecture series provides students with nutrition concepts that will be built upon further during subsequent system-based pathophysiology blocks.

Bio 372: Epidemiology in the Practice of Medicine
Professor Robert Goldberg, PhD who recently joined the Department of Community Health faculty has become the new course leader of the January epidemiology course. He comes to us from the UMASS Medical School where he taught a similar epidemiology course.

Bio 362/63 Doctoring II
Doctoring II, a new second-year clinical skills course, enables students to con-

tinue to acquire new physical diagnosis skills and to deepen their communication skills in small-group sessions and to practice these clinical skills in their physician mentors' practices. Doctoring II also addresses professional, legal and ethical issues such as informed consent and end-of-life decisions. When appropriate, course instruction is coordinated with the teaching of the various organ systems in pathophysiology.

Preparation for USMLE Step 1.

Second-year students have undertaken two major summer curriculum projects: Shankar Levine, MD'09 has examined Step 1 review books to determine content and the types of questions that are likely to appear on the board examination. This information will be shared with course leaders as they prepare their syllabi and final examinations; Josh Lakin, MD'09 is helping develop a USLME Step 1 website to aid second-year students prepare for the USMLE Step 1.

Establishment of the Teaching Academy
Jack Rusley, MD'09 and Steve Rougas, MD'09 are helping establish a Teaching Academy of second-year students with the twin goals of improving teaching in the Medical School and helping students who are interested in academic medicine become more effective tutors and teachers. Currently, 28 second-year students have been invited to serve as tutors and mentors in the first-year Doctoring course.

professional development

Office of Women in Medicine

September 14, 2006

8:15am-9:30am at Brown Faculty Club

Special Guest Speaker: President Ruth J. Simmons

Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer
Director

The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid extends a warm welcome to all medical students – new and returning! We hope that you had a wonderful summer and feel refreshed for the start of the year.

We are pleased to report that Brown continues to be a popular choice among students applying for admission through our standard admissions route, now in its second year. Our office processed nearly 2,700 standard applications, which represents a 66% increase over the prior year. We offered admission to 112 candidates, and 33 students (24 men, 9 women) chose to attend Brown. Representing 27 colleges and universities, nearly three out of every four (70%) chose undergraduate concentrations in the sciences, including 12 in biology and 6 in neuroscience. Five have graduate degrees. We are delighted that you have selected Brown!

We also would like to welcome to the class six post-bac students (3 men, 3 women) from Bryn Mawr College, Goucher College and Columbia University. Two students enrolled from each school, and their average age is 27. Two post-bacs have graduate degrees, and each of them brings a fascinating variety of work and life experiences that we know will further enrich the student body.

We also are delighted that two MD/PhD students and three Early Identification Program students (one each from Providence College, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island) have joined the first-year class.

These students along with our 48 continuing PLME students comprise our entire class of 92.

Call for Hospital Tour Guides: Do you love to talk with prospective applicants about your life as a medical student at Brown? Would you enjoy showing applicants around the campus or our hospitals? If the answer to either question is "yes", we would like to talk with you. We are planning to hire several medical students to give one-hour, hospital-based tours to admissions applicants throughout the academic year. If you are interested, please contact Amy Martin Webster (Amy_Martin@brown.edu; 863-9249) for more details.

Best wishes for a productive year!

IT Working Group

Tovah Reis
Medical School Librarian

IT in the Medical School Curriculum
Brown Medical School is undertaking a comprehensive redesign of its curriculum. The IT Working Group of the Curriculum Redesign Committee is charged with the application of information technology and web-based learning to the new curriculum.

In order to have input from the current Medical School classes we have created a survey of current IT use in the curriculum. If you have not yet replied to the survey, please take a few minutes to send us your thoughts. This anonymous survey will take <15 min to complete. We would appreciate receiving your reply by Friday, September 8, 2006.

Your response to this survey will assist the committee in making recommendations and enhancing the use of IT in Medical School teaching. The link to the survey is:

<http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/CIS/survey/form.php?surveynumber=263>

Thank you in advance for your input.

Office of Women in Medicine

Debra Abeshaus
Director

The Office of Women in Medicine (OWM) will open their third professional development series on September 14, 2006, 8:15 – 9:30 a.m. in the Brown Faculty Club, with special guest President Ruth J. Simmons who will speak on the theme of "Leadership." This annual series of programs was created to support increasing numbers of women medical graduates and faculty focusing on academic advancement to senior ranks and aiming towards leadership positions in medicine. Students, faculty and housestaff

september calendar

September 5
243rd Opening Convocation
Guest speaker: Katherine Bergeron
12:00 noon - The College Green
The Convocation procession of incoming students forms on College Street at 11:40am and steps off at 11:50am.

September 10
PLME Senate Meeting
Discussing: Elections for 2010 Reps
5:00pm - Faunce 201

September 14
Office of Women in Medicine: Professional Development Series
Guest speaker: President Ruth J. Simmons
8:15am - Brown Faculty Club

September 20
Whole Patient Program
Guest speaker: Dr. Stephanie Greene
5:30pm - Brown Faculty Club

September 27
Whole Physician Program
Guest speaker: Dr. David Katz
Time and location TBA

who would like to attend the morning program with President Simmons, are asked to RSVP to Kathleen_Haslam@brown.edu or call 863-7960/2450.

Later this month, students will receive information on the 2006-07 Women in Medicine Mentor Program. The WIM Mentor Program promotes connections between women medical students early in their educational and professional studies, with women physicians based at Brown affiliated hospitals and in the community. Through informal meetings with their mentors, students can learn about a medical specialty, a field of health care delivery, or a specific career choice from the perspective of a women physician. A reception will be held to bring together mentors and mentees this fall. Additional opportunities for students to meet with

opportunities

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Fogarty International Center (FIC), in partnership with The Ellison Medical Foundation, the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse, offers a one-year clinical research training experience for graduate level U.S. students in the health professions. This is an opportunity for highly motivated individuals to experience mentored research training at top-ranked NIH-funded research centers in the following countries: Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, Haiti, India, Kenya, Mali, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia. This program is design for students with a strong interest in a career in international health activities and/or clinical research. Each Fellowship will be for a one year period. The term will begin with an intensive orientation program on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD in July 2007. This will be followed by 10+ months of intense research training at the foreign site. Applications are due December 8, 2006. To access the application and get more info visit www.aamc.org/overseasfellowship.

Baylor College of Medicine has announced the 4th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Award. This annual contest honors the pre-eminent cardiovascular surgeon, pioneering medical scientist, gifted medical educator, prolific author and scholar, and passionate advocate of optimal healthcare throughout the world. Dr. Michael E. DeBakey has long advocated a role for the humanities in medical education and in the development of a full, enriching intellectual life. Submission of original poetry by undergraduates currently enrolled in U.S. medical schools is welcome. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2006. Winners will be announced on July 1, 2007. The first place cash prize of \$1,000, second place recipient will receive a cash prize of \$500, third place will receive a cash prize of \$250. The first-prize poem will be submitted to a major medical periodical for consideration for publication. Submissions should be sent to: F. Charles Brunicardi, M.D., F.A.C.S. DeBakey/Bard Professor and Chairman, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery DeBakey Medical

Student Poetry Award Baylor College of Medicine, 1709 Dryden, Suite 1500, Houston, Texas 77030. For more info contact Rsabalis@aamc.org

The Society for Pediatric Research and The American Pediatric Society are offering a grant to medical students who wish to participate in research in a pediatric laboratory at a medical school other than their own. This grant will provide a maximum stipend of \$4,270 (\$57.70 per day) and will enable each student to spend eight to ten weeks working 30-40 hours per week in a research environment. Visit www.aps-spr.org to download an application packet or to review an online directory of laboratory opportunities. The application deadline is January 26, 2007.

The Department of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University has established a Research Track in its Medical House Staff Training Program. Residents who match in the Research Track typically follow the American Board of Internal Medicine's Research Pathway. Recent and current participants have secured subspecialty fellowships in Cardiology, Nephrology, Oncology and Hematology, Endocrinology, and Infectious Diseases. For more information on the program visit www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/medicine/residency or contact intap@columbia.edu.

The Rhode Island Society of Anesthesiologists (RISA) is pleased to announce that Rhode Island medical students are invited to become members of the Rhode Island Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Interested medical students may apply for the RISA Medical Student Fellowship, a competitively awarded \$800 stipend created to promote opportunities for talented Rhode Island medical students. For additional information please contact Trevor S. Sutton, M.D. at 444-5142. Deadline to apply is February 16, 2007. Continued on page 8

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc. Student Fellowship is awarded annually to current medical students interests in the scientific basis of

women faculty in a group setting will be offered during the year as well as the chance to meet with a mentor through the Rhode Island Medical Women's Association (RIMWA). For the latest updates on OWM events, please visit our website at <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html>

PLME

Julianne Ip, Associate Dean

Hilary Sweigart, PLME Manager

A very warm welcome to all PLME students, veterans and new. It is very exciting to begin a new year and we hope that you will make full use of the PLME Office as a resource. We are here to support you in any way we can and our door is always open. Our PLME Class of 2010 (55 students) includes 39 women and 16 men, from: New York 10; California 8; Connecticut and Massachusetts 5 each; Florida and Texas 4 each; Rhode Island 3; Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia 2 each; Vermont, Washington, Canada, and People's Republic of China 1 each.

FRESHMEN: The first Whole Patient program is on September 20 at 5:30 PM in the Faculty Club (One Magee Street). Our speakers will be [Dr. Stephanie Greene](#) and a patient. Dr. Greene is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, specializing in pediatric and general adult neurosurgery including brain tumors, epilepsy, and Chiari malformations. All freshmen should plan

to attend and reservation for dinner is required by contacting Joan_Fullerton@Brown.edu.

SENIORS: Be on the look out for a Continuation Letter from Juli Ip requesting information on your plans for next year. If you are continuing into medical school in September 2007, you must complete the AMCAS application—more information will be sent to you about AMCAS later in the semester.

ALL STUDENTS: The PLME Senate is putting together the first Whole Physician Program and has invited nationally recognized nutrition expert [David L. Katz, MD, MPH](#), Associate Professor Adjunct in Public Health Practice at Yale School of Public Health to speak. More information will be forwarded to you by email as plans are firmed up.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THESE IMPORTANT WEB SITES:

<http://bms.brown.edu/plme/handbook> — gives up-to-date information on PLME academic requirements, evaluation of academic progress, and leave taking.

<http://bms.brown.edu/students/miap> — Medicine In Action Program (MIAP) provides physician shadowing experiences with Brown medical faculty during the semester, and with Brown alumni across the country during vacation periods. This is a great vehicle for seeing different specialties in action and to network with biomedical faculty who might be involved in some interesting research.

PLME Senate

Carly Seidman

Co-President

The PLME Senate would like to welcome back all sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as extend its congratulations to the incoming class of 2010—we hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for a productive year! The PLME Senate is already hard at work planning

events for PLMEs and the entire Brown community to enjoy.

First years—the first Whole Patient Program of the 2006-2007 year will be held on Wednesday, September 20 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Faculty Club (One Magee Street). To learn more, check out <http://bms.brown.edu/neurosurgery/>. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Whole Patient co-chairs at Alma_Guerrero@brown.edu and Bo_Wang@brown.edu.

Whole Physician Program chair, Larry Kwon (Lawrence_Kwon@brown.edu), has been planning an exciting program, open to all. Featured will be guest-speaker Dr. David Katz, M.D., M.P.H., of the Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Katz is an Internist and Preventive Medicine specialist, as well as a nationally recognized nutrition expert. To read more, please visit: <http://www.med.yale.edu/eph/faculty/katz.html>. The program will be held on Wednesday, September 27, time t.b.a.—please look out for announcements of this event!

PLME Apparel is now here! Back by popular demand, our caduceus logo is available on sweatshirts (\$25) and t-shirts (\$12); sweatpants with our newer logo (\$20) are also available. Color choices and ordering instructions will be sent out to all classes via email; apparel will also be sold at our upcoming events. Please contact me (Carly_Seidman@brown.edu) or my co-president (Jenna_Kahn@brown.edu) if you have any questions regarding apparel.

Our first meeting of the semester will be held on Sunday, September 10 at 5 pm, in Faunce 201. We will be discussing our plans for the semester as well as the upcoming elections for Class of 2010 Representatives. As always, all are welcome and encouraged to attend! In the meantime, if you have any questions or ideas, feel free to contact Jenna and me. Best wishes for a great semester!

student news

Ezekiel Young MD'08 won honorable mention in the AMSA Creative Arts Contest for his "Pour Boy" painting, as recognized in The New Physician

Student Senate

Jim Wilkerson
Co-President

Welcome to another year at BMS. The Medical Student senate would like to extend a special welcome to all the members of the class of 2010. The Senate is ready to hit the ground running in anticipation of a very active year at Brown.

This is an exciting time of change and transition in the medical school. We are implementing the new curriculum for the class of 2010, Doctoring is entering into its second year, and all of the working groups are actively working to improve BMS for both current and future students. This is the perfect time to get involved in the present and future of BMS through service, student groups, working groups, intramurals, and of course, the senate.

The class representatives for the 2006-07 academic year are Rob Markelewicz and Emily Clarke-Pearson for the class of 2007, Syed Latif, Ben Mathis, and Christina Cinelli from MD 2008, and Saira Alimohamed, Jeremy Boyd, and George Turini for 2009. Shahrzad Ehdaivand is the Brown-Dartmouth Representative. The executive committee is composed of Neel Shah, President; Jim Wilkerson, Vice President; Bethany Stafford, Secre-

tary; and Zac Ginsberg, treasurer. Elections for the class of 2009 will be held in mid September.

The senate has meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 5th, at 7:30 pm in room 202 of the BMC. This, and every Tuesday senate meeting, is open to all members of the BMS community and we encourage you to come. Best of luck for the start of the year.

Opportunities Continued

myasthenia gravis or related neuromuscular conditions, serving both to further scientific inquiries into the nature of these disorders and to encourage more research. The stipend is \$3,000. To apply, briefly describe, in abstract form, the question that you propose to study, its association to myasthenia gravis or related neuromuscular conditions, and how you will approach the project. For details on how to apply please visit http://www.myasthenia.org/research/MGFA_StudentFellowship.pdf or contact mgfa@myasthenia.org. The annual deadline for applications is March 15.

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A Word from the Dean Continued from page one

The educational facilities in the Biomedical Center Building have been substantially upgraded with plans underway for a phase II and space expansion. The standard admission route has gone from being a pilot project to an official route. The increase in class size has been approved by Brown University's Corporation, with plans afoot to enroll 108 matriculants by 2008. Lastly, the Class of 2010 is the first to experience the newly designed curriculum and to attend classes in the Smith-Buonanno building and its state-of-the-art auditorium.

While much ground has been covered, much remains to be done. And so it will.

I sincerely hope that you, like me, are looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

With my very best,

