

A Word from the Dean



Dear students,

Albert Schweitzer asserted that we are truly ethical only when we devote ourselves to serving others, truly humanitarian only when we refuse to sacrifice any human being to a purpose, and truly influential only through the example of our actions.

To support the development of physicians and scientists who are ethical, humanitarian, and in the best sense influential is surely the highest goal of medical education. When we speak of the moral compass that defines our course here at Brown, we have in mind this overarching goal. The means by which we aim to achieve it determine the character of our Medical School: we rely upon close collaborations among disciplines and institutions; we cultivate an expanding commitment to research; we embrace and encourage innovation; and we promote engagement and advocacy.

We do not have to look far to find examples of our students' commitment to patients and community. They assist in the care of uninsured patients at the Rhode Island Free Clinic; they advocate for families and mentor children with asthma or at risk of diabetes through ProjectHEALTH; they help galvanize neighborhoods and bring available resources to bear on health issues of pressing local concern through the Community Health Advocacy Program; they mentor pregnant teens and help educate young mothers about breastfeeding; they advocate for reproductive health education in medical schools and among policymakers;

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Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso

Associate Dean for Medical Education

In speaking with students about the realities of medical education, something that frequently comes up is rising tuition and the cost of attendance. I think I speak for the entire administration when I say that a laudable goal would be to decrease the cost to students and provide sufficient aid so that financial realities would have no influence on career decisions. Unfortunately, there are aspects of the health care system in general and in the financing of medical education at Brown in particular that bear on these issues.

I should first say that the present medical school administration has made a substantial commitment of resources to improving the quality of medical education. The combination of the curriculum redesign process, Doctoring, the Scholarly Concentrations program, increased funding for summer assistantships and increased travel funding has totaled over \$750,000 per year. In addition, we set a precedent last year by transferring funding to clinical departments to preserve and incentivize teaching in the preclinical years. Finally, we began, for the first time, to provide equitable support across all of the core clerkships for clerkship directors and coordinators. Some of these initiatives were necessitated by the challenging financial situation facing clinical departments. The level of clinical reimbursement in Rhode Island remains low relative to other states in our region. The result is a strong financial

disincentive for teaching.

In the area of financial aid, our medical school suffers from its young age and, as a result, a relatively small endowment. Many of you may know that the structure of the Alpert gift is such that its major impact on medical education will be the building of a new educational facility. As cost of attendance has increased, and as the impact of the implementation of need-blind admissions has been felt at the medical school, our ability to hold the line on the size of our base loans has been limited. However, we anticipate an increase in the yield provided by our endowment this year, the result of an initiative on the part of the University to improve the quality of financial aid. As a result, we will keep the increase in the size of the base loan amount to a level below what we expected would be necessary.

I provide this information only to provide context for what has been a steady increase in the cost of medical education to you and your families. I assure you that our fundraising priorities include

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save the date

financial aid, and that we are trying to develop an administrative structure that will be as effective and efficient as possible in providing the highest quality education to our students. I am open to any approach to discussing these issues with students. Please feel free to call on me either individually or through the student leadership.

Please save the date for these important events;

April 15, 2008:	Sheridan Lecture
May 5, 2008:	Third year orientation begins
May 25, 2008:	Commencement
June 6, 2008	End of First year

Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang

Director

MD Class of 2008: Match Day is March 20th and the invitations are in the mail! A festive champagne reception in your honor will be held at Andrews Dining Hall on Pembroke Campus. You will receive your residency training appointments exactly at the strike of 12:00, immediately prior to the reception. Wishing you all the very, very best! Reminder: If you have not filled out your electronic AAMC graduation questionnaire, please do so. The web address is www.aamc.org/gq.

MD Class of 2009: The fourth-year lottery for sub internships and electives will take place this month using the OASIS scheduling program. Your preferred course list must be reviewed and approved by your career advisor in order for you to participate in the lottery. Linda Bozzario will be sending you further details about the process and the dates.

Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer

Director

Alpert Medical School received nearly 3,000 secondary applications for the 2007-08 admissions cycle, representing a 10% increase over the previous year. As the interview season for standard admission applicants winds down, we would like to thank all of the students who have participated in any aspect of

interview days: campus and hospital tours, the student hosting program, and the popular morning question-and-answer sessions. Special thanks to Diana Feldstein MD'10 for organizing the hosting program and to Cliff Voigt MD'09 for organizing the hospital tour guides. All of our faculty and student interviewers deserve kudos for volunteering their time to meet our visiting applicants.

The Second Look Program for admitted applicants to the Class of 2012 is scheduled for April 24-25, 2008. This event provides prospective students with a view of the many opportunities available to Brown medical students. If you have ideas for the program and want to get involved, please contact Barbara Fuller or Melissa Whiteley.

It's time to apply for financial aid again! Each year that you wish to be considered for financial aid, you must apply anew. With that in mind, the 2008-2009 Financial Aid Guide is available in PDF format on our website along with all the necessary application forms including the links for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), Need Access and Alpert Medical School Financial Aid Application. Please note that our office does not mail paper copies of the guide or the application forms, although they are available upon request.

The deadline for completing the FAFSA and the Need Access forms is April 1, 2008. The deadline for our receipt of all other forms is April 15, 2008. When completing the FAFSA, remember to use the Alpert Medical School federal school code of E00059. Please let us know if you

have any questions or concerns, or need help as you complete your applications. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Financial Aid Exit Meetings for Graduating Medical Students: If you are graduating in May and you borrowed federal student loans during medical school, we will contact you this month to schedule your exit meeting. The principal goals of this meeting are to provide you with a cumulative summary of your student loans; review deferment, payment and consolidation, and loan repayment options; and calculate estimated repayment schedules. You will have your choice of seven dates between March and May. This is the most important financial aid meeting of your medical school years, so please schedule your appointment with Carol Chace as soon as possible. We are confident that you will leave this meeting with a clear understanding of your loans and with a "game plan" for how to repay them. Information about the specific dates and times of the sessions, as well as information on how to sign up will be sent via your class listserv.

Office of Women in Medicine

Debra Abeshaus

Director

Join us for a special encore presentation by Renee Ward, MD, PGY7 fellow in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Alpert Medical School. Dr. Ward will address – Excelling on the Wards on February 28, 2008, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, at Rhode Island Hospital,

Jane Brown Building, Division of General Internal Medicine, Residency Conference Room 064. Please e-mail officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu to RSVP or call 401-863-7960/2450 by February 25th.

As we plan ahead for spring programs, we invite you to save the dates for the following events. For more information and to register, we welcome you to visit the OWM "What's New" page at <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html> or call 863-2450/7960.

March 13, 2008, 8:00-9:15 am, Faculty Club

Thinking Like the CEO of Your Own Career: Goal-Setting, Advancing & Avoiding Career Derailers – guest speaker, Janet Bickel, MA

March 20, 2008, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, RISD Museum

Women in Medicine Networking Event, RISD Museum, 224 Benefit Street, Providence.

April 10, 2008, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, Faculty Club

Annual Women in Residency Fair

PLME Senate

Jenna Kahn

Co-President

The PLME Senate has so much in store for this semester and is very excited for all of our new ideas and activities to occur! Our first meeting was held on January 28th and was well attended by a variety of different PLME classes as we discussed our goals and priorities for the spring semester.

This semester the social chairs have been working hard to bring the PLME undergraduate new and exciting events. Our first event was on February 7th which was a screening of Michael Moore's movie Sicko, a movie that deals with the issues and policies of the United States health care system. This event was well attended and a success. An event that is

being planned for later in the semester is a restaurant night which may be at Kabob and Curry. We hope to arrange a buffet style dinner that would be open to all PLMEs. The Spring BBQ will be held later this semester and will include advising dean games such as softball or dodge ball.

Our community service chairs have put together a showcase panel of different volunteer programs started by PLME students. This event will occur on Friday February 29th at 12 pm in BMC 202, food will be served. We will also be co-sponsoring and helping the Medical School with their Date-a-Doctor event later this semester. Another event we are putting together is a performance to showcase Community Works. It is a mentorship program that caters to children in the community who are interested in music and learning how

to play instruments. The community service chairs have been extremely active in trying to get information out to students about different opportunities through our website and we have also been working on raising money for various volunteer organizations. If you have any questions or contributions please email Arune_Gulati@brown.edu or Mansi_Shah@Brown.edu.

The Whole Physician program will be on Thursday March 13th at 7:30 pm in BMC 202. This will be a panel of medical students discussing relationships in medical school as well as general advice about life in medical school. We plan on having about 6 various medical students on a panel. We are

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March 22 -30
SPRING BREAK

March 26

MD07 Financial Aid Exit Interview required for all graduating medical students. Preregistration required. Other dates in April and May available. Please contact Carol Chace at Carol_Chace@brown.edu to reserve a spot. 2:00-5:30 p.m.

April 2

Meds/Peds specialties panel- Come meet a panel of Med/Peds trained residents and attendings who have or are pursuing fellowship. It will be a chance to see how training in Med/Peds can lend itself to diverse career paths. 6:00-7:30pm.

April 10

Women in Residency Fair- An opportunity for medical students to gain insight into the "residency experience" from the unique viewpoint of women physicians. Thursday, April 10, 2008 - 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Brown University Faculty Club, One Magee Street, campus.

For more information, please e-mail: officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Brown University Faculty Club, One Magee Street, campus

April 15

Sheridan Lecture and book signing- "How doctors think" presented by Jerome Groopman, MD. 4:30-7:00 Smith Buonanno Hall, Room 106

May 5

3rd year Clerkship orientation begins

May 12

3rd year Quarter 1 begins

June 6

End of 1st year

spring calendar

opportunities

The Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research is pleased to announce that the FAER Medical Student Anesthesia Research Fellowship Program will again be held in 2008. Application materials for host institutions are now available and can be obtained by visiting the FAER website at <http://www.faer.org/programs/students/host.html>. FAER will begin recruiting medical students in January. Interested students may download the short student application from the website beginning January 3, 2008. We welcome your questions and look forward to hearing from you. Questions may be directed to FAER in care of Mary Schrandt by e-mail, schrandt.mary@mayo.edu, or by phone at 507-538-7883.

New England Eye Center, Tufts-New England Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine Research Opportunity

One-Year Medical Student Research Opportunity in Ophthalmology

The New England Eye Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has an exciting and unique research opportunity for a high motivated medical student. The research involves the clinical applications of high-speed ultrahigh resolution optical coherence tomography (OCT). The student will have the opportunity to design, initiate, and complete clinical studies on the utility of this device in retinal diseases and glaucoma. A background in engineering or computer science is preferred. This is a one-year, full time commitment starting in July 2008. A stipend of \$25,000 per year is available.

Interested individuals should contact Jay S. Duker, M.D., Professor and Chair, New England Eye Center, 617-636-4677, jduker@tufts-nemc.org.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest is a national consumer organization that focuses on health and nutrition issues. CSPI offers internships for a small number of qualified students in undergraduate, graduate, law, and medical schools each summer and during the school year. A list of current projects follow. If you are interested in obtaining a spring/summer internship at CSPI through the Everett Public Interest Internship Program

<http://www.everettinternships.org/> , please note so in your cover letter. To find out more about the Everett Program, visit their website at www.everettinternships.org <http://www.everettinternships.org/> .

Generally, an internship is for ten weeks. Undergraduate interns are paid an hourly wage of \$7.00/hour (\$8.00/hour for graduate students). The specific dates of an internship are flexible and depend on our needs and the applicant's schedule. Applications are now being taken for spring/summer 2008. Application materials should include the following:

1. A cover letter indicating issues of interest, future plans, and dates of availability.
2. A résumé. Experience with advocacy groups is advantageous.
3. Writing sample, if required by the specific project (a popularly written piece is preferred over a technical report).
4. Two letters of recommendation from instructors or employers that address your academic/work ability and character.
5. An official transcript of courses and grades.

The same materials are needed whether applying to the Everett Program or directly to CSPI.

Mail to: Internships, CSPI, 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, #300, Washington, DC 20009.

Please submit the application materials as early as possible. Applications are taken on a rolling basis and until all positions have been filled. Awards for internships are very competitive. Applicants are advised to follow the application guidelines.

A six week summer multi-specialty/multidisciplinary externship from July 8 - August 13, 2008 at Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island, minutes from midtown Manhattan.

Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility is a 2,000+ bed specialty care hospital with programs in Rehabilitative Medicine, General Medicine, Ventilator care/weaning, Geriatrics and AIDS. There are full support services in Radiology, Laboratories, Dentistry, Psychiatry, Pharmacy, along with Social Work, Rehabilitation Therapies, and Therapeutic Recreation.

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PLME

Hilary Sweigart

PLME Manager

A new advising page will shortly be available from the PLME web site <http://med.brown.edu/plme/Advising.html>. It will be the place to go for information on your PLME advising deans, the PLME staff, Meiklejohns, and Med Fellows. Check it out. If anyone has suggestions for information which should be added to this site, please send an email to Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu. Please keep in mind that even after your freshman year, PLME students keep their PLME Meiklejohn advisors as peer advisors throughout their years in the program. We are putting together a listing of all Meiklejohns, peer advisors, and new Med Fellows who can be resources for all PLME students.

Rahul Banerjee is working to create a new PLME MyCourses site. Many of the important information items which have been available on the PLME web site will be transferred to the new MyCourses site where there will also be a discussion board for PLME students. Anyone who has suggestions can email Rahul@brown.edu.

Apply to study in Germany this summer: Growing Old-The medical perspective of aging at Rostock University, June 9-20, 2008, and/or Comparative Medical Ethics at Tuebingen University, June 23-July 4, 2008. First-year medical students and PLME students may apply for one or both opportunities. Classes are in English. Students pay transportation, food, and incidental expenses. For an application, contact Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu. Deadline for receipt of application is March 31, 2008.

There is still time to apply for an International Health Travel Scholarships (IHTS). The medical school has funding available for approximately ten international travel grants of \$500 each to help support travel to international locations to pursue educational

experiences, such as attending summer seminars, conferences, programs, or research, which will benefit students' professional development. For more information and an application, medical students and PLME students may contact Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu. Deadline for receipt of completed application is March 31, 2007.

SOPHOMORES — As you develop your PLME Educational Plan, you must meet with your advising dean to discuss it. Plans along with a copy of your approved concentration forms are due to Ms. Fullerton in the PLME Office by April 15.

Thinking of Study Abroad? Have you checked out the list of PLMEs and former PLMEs who are available to answer your questions about their experiences studying abroad, at http://med.brown.edu/plme/PLME_Abroad2.pdf? Send them an email.

SENIORS — Mark your calendar for the Senior Graduation Reception on Saturday, May 24, 2007 at 5:30 PM in Leung Gallery. Senior awards and BMS pins will be distributed at this champagne reception for you and your family.

PLME Senate

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also on the lookout to bring in a speaker later on in the semester to speak to the Brown community. Please email Linda_Ratanasaporn@brown.edu or Kevin_Liou@Brown.edu with any questions.

The Whole Patient program will be on February 20th in the Faculty club at 5:30 with Dr. Ed Forman who is a well known Pediatric Oncologist in the Brown community. We look forward to having him speak. Please contact Jack_Cossman@Brown.edu or Lisa_

Ratanasaporn@Brown.edu for questions or suggestions.

Other events the PLME Senate will be involved in this semester include a Radio-a-thon at Hasboro's Children Hospital in April to raise money as well as co-sponsoring Wigs for Kids. The PLME Senate has completed its website thanks to Rahul Banerjee and is working on starting a Mycourses page for PLME students especially for advising. This would facilitate discussions and give easy access to information for undergraduate students. We are also looking into making Brown PLME car decals for parents and students. As always we have study groups for various classes that are popular for freshman and sophomores. We have also continued our bi-monthly housing letter.

The PLME Senate will be having a pizza making and board games meeting on March 9th. All are welcome and encouraged to come! Our PLME Senate meetings are held on Sundays at 5 p.m. in Faunce 201. Remember that all are welcome and encouraged to come to these meetings. We appreciate and encourage your feedback with events and are open to any new ideas. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jenna Kahn or Geolani Dy (Jenna_Kahn@Brown.edu and Geolani_Dy@Brown.edu). Website: <http://bms.brown.edu/plme/senate/>

Opportunities

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The externship is designed to give students the opportunity of one to one supervision with full time attending physicians. The goals of the program include acquiring and understanding of chronic illnesses and the interdisciplinary team approach that is required to care for people with chronic illnesses.

PLEASE APPLY BY MAY 9, 2008.

For further information, please contact Harvey Jolt, Ph.D. at (212) 318-4082 or by email to Harvey.Jolt@nychhc.org.

The Fifth Annual Major C.W. Offutt Award "Caring for America's Heros" is now accepting entries.

The deadline for submission is April 14, 2008. Submissions will be judged on originality, quality of expression, spirit of caring, humanism imparted, and other criteria. A distinguished panel will evaluate the submissions.

Three papers will be awarded cash awards: First place will receive \$1,000,

second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250. If you have any questions, please contact the office of the Chief of Staff, VAMC at (405) 270-5135.

Nexos Voluntarios (NeVo) is a non-profit organization, supported by the Inter-American Development Bank that aims to strengthen multilateral relations between Latin America and the Northern Hemisphere through the participation of university students and professionals, from USA, Canada and Europe, in development and research projects in Peru. We work with impact-driven and renowned NGOs that offer internships and volunteering opportunities for participating students. In return, we offer a meaningful learning experience abroad and a balance of cultural interaction, service work and strengthening of Spanish language and professional skills. For more information please visit the website at www.nexosvoluntarios.org.

they volunteer as language interpreters at hospitals and clinics, and do so much more.

As this year began, our medical students stood beside Rhode Island physicians, nurses, and community members at the State House to protest proposed cuts to the RlTe Care budget that threaten to eliminate state health coverage for thousands of low-income families. Speaking individually with lawmakers after the rally, students argued that the cuts would exact a high price as reduced access to preventative care and early treatment take their toll, especially among children, and as emergency room visits and uncompensated care increase.

Among the students in white coats advocating for Rhode Island families was Margaret Chang MD'10, who said, "What we can contribute at this point is a powerful image of our conviction." They did indeed contribute such an image, as well as inspire hope among community members. And they provided us with a powerful indication that they are well on their way to realizing Schweitzer's, and our, highest ambitions for them.

ELI

the pulse

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