

# the pulse

The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
Student Affairs Newsletter



<http://bms.brown.edu/students/pulse/>

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**Edward J. Wing, MD**  
*Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences*

I have met many medical students in a variety of venues - the recent town hall meeting, the MD/PhD retreat, and the medical student's senate meeting. I have shared my vision for the Alpert Medical School as well as listened to your concerns. Your concerns are important to me. I have found that the most effective way of tackling issues is to first make a list, prioritize the list, and then select the first and second issue. This process was followed at the recent student senate meeting. The two most pressing issues are the need for adequate study space and funding for student travel.

It is clear that medical students need a designated, quiet space to call their academic home...now. I toured the Friedman Center and requested a report from the medical school librarian, Tovah Reiss. The medical student senate has had a follow up

meeting with the University Librarian, Harriette Hemmasi. We need creative ideas to design a designated spot. A subcommittee has been formed to develop an improvement plan for better study space. I will look forward to reviewing this plan with great earnest.

Secondly, we must increase funds for medical student travel. We are reviewing the amounts and allocation of existing funds and looking for ways to engage our medical school faculty to help. Travel offers meaningful learning opportunities which can be life changing. I am very supportive of this cause and will report back with our progress shortly.

I am committed to improving these circumstances to the best of our ability. In addressing these concerns we continue to make strides in making the Alpert Medical School on of the very best in the county.

### **Medical Student Affairs**

**Phil Gruppuso, MD**  
*Associate Dean*

Outside the Core:  
Expanding Students' Interests

During this new semester, I have been struck by our students' intense

interest in pursuing scholarly activities outside of the core medical curriculum. There has been a slow but continual increase over the past several years in areas ranging from basic science research to social science and policy. Such pursuits are being led by and capably supported through student interest groups, student-initiated clinical

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electives, and the Scholarly Concentrations program.

Students who contact me for advice are most often doing so to discuss research opportunities. I am always amazed by the number of students who are interested in conducting their first basic or clinical research project, not because it will enhance their appeal to residency programs (though it may well do so), but because they consider it part of a well-rounded medical education. I applaud these students. Basic research experience can change how one approaches the hypothesis generating/hypothesis testing process that is central to the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

One of the more remarkable trends I've seen is the corollary of the student who already has research experience and now wants to extend their scholarship during medical school to more non-traditional arenas. There is perhaps no better example of this than the work being done by students in concert with Dr. Teresa Schraeder.

Dr. Schraeder, a member of the editorial staff of the New England Journal of Medicine, came to see me several years ago. By the end of a single discussion about our nascent Scholarly Concentrations Program, she had proposed a concentration that she called "Physician as Communicator." Dr. Schraeder, a new member of our Department of Family Medicine, recognized the growing interest in medicine and writing and wanted to guide and

mentor medical students interested in writing.

In advance of developing the concentration, Dr. Schraeder convened a group of second year medical students in what amounts to a writing support group. Students bring their own work to each meeting of the group, receive feedback on their work, discuss various issues of writing and communication in medicine, and on occasion invite guest speakers. The writing group meets monthly, with twelve medical students at each session. Among these students are two who are pursuing the Physician as Communicator concentration, Jessica Marrero and Luke Godwin. Jessica is writing and producing a multi-media play about HIV/AIDS. She spent the summer in Durban, South Africa working in a clinic, gathering research and conducting video interviews for her project. Her work looks at the distinctions between the science and the social and cross-cultural aspects of the disease. Luke is focusing his work on physician writers, including William Carlos Williams and others. Godwin will explore these individuals' lives, and illuminate the tensions and confluences of doctors as writers.

There are currently twelve Scholarly Concentration Programs as well as many other research, mentoring and elective programs available to students. While these opportunities exist outside the official core curriculum, it is clear they are an essential part of our

students' education. My hope is that through this broad, interdisciplinary component of the curriculum, we fulfill not only the interests but the needs of the next generation of physicians.

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## Office of Financial Aid

**Linda Gillette**  
*Assistant Director*

The Office of Financial Aid has planned a two part financial wellness program this fall. Please take a moment to note the date and time of the next program. Hope to see you there!

*Save the date!*

- **A 2-Part Financial Wellness Program:**, sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid will feature speaker Wynette Richardson, Brown's Loan Office Manager. Budget Planning was the topic of the first program, held on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The second program will discuss credit reporting, credit management and identity theft. The program will be held on November 17, 2008, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in room 202 of the BMC.

If you have any questions about the program or are unable to attend, but would like the handout materials sent to you, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by calling 401-863-1142 or emailing at [md\\_finaid@brown.edu](mailto:md_finaid@brown.edu).

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## Office of Admissions

Barbara Fuller, *Director*

Nearly fifty students from the linkage programs at Bryn Mawr College, Columbia University, and Goucher College attended our annual **Postbaccalaureate Visiting Day** on Friday, September 26. The afternoon program consisted of presentations on the preclinical and clinical curriculum, including the Doctoring course and the Scholarly Concentrations Program, as well as information regarding the admissions process and financial aid. We particularly appreciate the perspectives that Dean Gruppuso, Dr. Julie Taylor, Pojen Deng MD'11, and Erica Bromley MD'11 provided on teaching and learning at Brown. We also wish to thank Amy McIntyre MD'09, Mike Gart MD'10, Rob Haskell MD'10, Josh Fischer MD'10, and Steve Rougas MD'09 for making room in their busy schedules to speak to the group on the variety of hospitals, clinical experiences, and professional development options for Brown students. And special thanks to our MD'12 postbacs—Ravi, Amanda, Marina, and Hannah—for leading the campus tours. As always, Melissa and I are grateful for all those who came to socialize at the concluding Faculty Club reception.

Interviews began on October 2, 2008, and will continue almost every Thursday through March 12, 2009. During this admissions season we expect to interview about 250 applicants. This effort would not be possible without our students who have agreed to serve as overnight hosts. You provide a much-appreciated resource for all of

our visiting interviewees, and we cannot begin to repay you for your time and hospitality. If you missed Steve Lee's email asking for your futon/couch/floor (sleeping bag optional), please let Melissa Whiteley know if you'd like to participate as a host. Another way to be involved in admissions is to be part of the morning question-and-answer session at the Hope Club. Again, email Melissa or Barbara; there is no better way to get acquainted with your future colleagues!

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### PLME

Hilary Sweigart/Dean Julianne Ip

On Saturday, October 18, PLME students and advisors came together to have fun playing a "friendly" game of kickball, followed by home-made cookies and apple cider. Take a look at the photos and send the link to your family at <http://med.brown.edu/plme/slideshow>. Dean Ip's advising group picked apples in Greenville on October 5, just around the corner from her home where students enjoyed some tasty treats! Photos from the orchard are also available at <http://med.brown.edu/plme/slideshow>. More photos of Dean Empkie's rowing get together and Dean Brescia's group will be available soon.

**FRESHMEN** — Preregistration ends on November 11. Have you checked in with your advising dean? The Whole Patient coordinators are working hard to bring you two more

programs in Semester II. Be on the look out for more information in February.

**SOPHOMORES** — The **Educational Plan** meeting will be held on **Monday, December 1, 12:00–12:50** in BMC 291 Eddy Auditorium. Boxed lunches will be provided. Sophomores should sign up now by emailing Hilary\_Sweigart@Brown.edu.

**SENIORS** — Seniors intending to matriculate into the Alpert Medical School in the fall of 2009, **MUST COMPLETE AMCAS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS BY NOVEMBER 17, 2008.** [http://med.brown.edu/plme/AMCAS\\_2009.html](http://med.brown.edu/plme/AMCAS_2009.html)

### ALL STUDENTS

**Wednesday, November 12, 7:30PM—Whole Physician Program** presents **Dr. Bernie Siegel—Prescriptions for Living: The Art of Healing** in Smith-Buonano Room 106. (Hot chocolate and hot cider.) The event is open to ALL STUDENTS AND FACULTY. Bring along your non-PLME friends!

**December 3, 12 noon—Panel Discussion on the Master of Public Health.** Hear Terrie "Fox" Wetle, PhD, Associate Dean for Public Health and Public Policy discuss Brown's program in public health and the master of public health. Also on the panel will be Angela Sherwin, PLME '07, who is currently



studying for her MPH at Brown, and Nate Link, MD'09, MPH (J. Hopkins).

#### PLME Research Opportunities

1. **Summer Research Assistantships–Biomedical Sciences** are made available annually on a competitive basis to students enrolled in the PLME. This is an excellent opportunity to become engaged in a research project **under the supervision and mentorship of a Brown faculty member** in the area of biomedical science. Visit [http://med.brown.edu/plme/SRA\\_PLME.html](http://med.brown.edu/plme/SRA_PLME.html) for more information and application materials.

2. **Summer Research Assistantships—Emergency Medicine** are available annually to students enrolled in the PLME or Medical School. Interested students must contact **ONLY** the EM faculty who have listed their research on the web site at [http://med.brown.edu/plme/SRA\\_EM.htm](http://med.brown.edu/plme/SRA_EM.htm), where you can also download the application materials.

3. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is accepting applications for the **2009 Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program**. This intensive summer program provides college students with an opportunity to work on policy issues in a congressional office and to engage in original health policy research and analysis under the guidance of Foundation research staff. College seniors and recent college graduates who have a strong interest in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities, or who are themselves a member of a population that is

adversely affected by racial and ethnic health disparities are eligible to apply. **The application deadline is 5 p.m. ET on Friday, December 12, 2008.** Application materials and more information are available online at <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/bjscholars/bjsapplication.cfm>.

**The Medical Student Senate**  
**Kartik Venkatesh, President**  
**Michael Gart, Vice President**  
**Liz Niemiec, Treasurer**  
**Lauren De Leon, Secretary**

This past month the senate completed class elections and filled appointed positions. Congratulations to all of our new representatives! The listing of all senate members for 08-09 is available on the new senate website at <http://med.brown.edu/students/senate/>.

We hosted a town hall meeting and a follow-up senate meeting this past month with Dean Wing to address medical student needs, and top on the list is improving study space and funding for student travel. A subcommittee headed by Patrick Worth has been formed to address the question of expanding medical student study space with the plan of proposing a solution through collaboration between the medical school and library administrations.

We are also in the process of planning social events for the year. Please contact your class reps and social committee members, Almaz Dessie, Aleema Patel, Vivek Shenoy, and John Paul Gilberto, with ideas of possible events. Plans are on for a karaoke night and the winter ball with graduate students for this semester, and then ice skating, laser tag, and the medical school formal ball and socket in the spring. However we could still host additional events, so please do provide us with your ideas.

Funding to student groups has now been distributed online via my groups for the semester. Many thanks to our

treasurer, Liz Niemiec, and PACC chair, Nitin Aggarwal, and support from Dionne Gomez in expanding our mechanisms of providing timely funding to groups.

We hope to shortly unveil wiki pages on the senate website. These wikis will address curriculum course content from years 1 and 2, allowing students and faculty to post useful links and engage in online discussion, as well as a planning clerkships page for third years, and a discussion page on applying and logistics for residencies for 4<sup>th</sup> years. The idea with wikis is that students can actively contribute content and that tabulated information can be passed down between years.

We look forward to hearing from many of you soon.

## Popular Student Affairs Event!

Please join us for the

## BioMed Musicale

Friday, November 14, 2008  
7:00 pm

Alumnae Hall  
Pembroke Campus  
doors open at 6:30 pm

BioMed faculty, students,  
and staff  
will perform solo  
and ensemble performances  
including pop, jazz, classical,  
blues and folk



## Office of Minority Medical Affairs

Zoila Quezada, *Manager*

The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) chapter of Alpert Medical School is hosting the Region VII Medical Education Conference on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. SNMA is the nation's oldest student-run organization that addresses the needs and concerns of medical and premedical minority students and the health of minority communities. The members of SNMA have worked exceptionally through all of the details of the conference that will host other SNMA chapters in Region VII, which include; University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Tufts University School of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dartmouth Medical School, and University of Vermont College of Medicine.

The Region VII Medical Education Conference's theme is "***The Color of Medicine: Eliminating Health Disparities through Education, Prevention, and Advocacy***". The goal of the conference is to highlight how progress in medicine and healthcare globally intersects with economics, politics, culture, and environmental issues.

Edward Wing, MD, Dean of the Division of Biology and Medicine at Alpert Medical School will deliver the opening address and Brian Gibbs, MD, Director of the

Program to Eliminate Health Disparities at Harvard School of Public Health will serve as our dinner keynote speaker. The day workshops will be led by many important figures in medicine, public health, and advocacy.

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## Office of Women in Medicine Debra Abeshaus, *Director*

The OWM held a panel presentation, **Managing Early Career Path Decisions**, on October 20, 2008. Alpert Medical School faculty panelists included Rachel Caiati, MD, Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging, Barbara O'Brien, MD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Brigid O'Connor, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology and Katherine Sharkey, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

A reception will be held on **November 13, 2008, 5:30 – 7:00 pm**, in the Brown Faculty Club to bring together student mentees and physician mentors matched through the **Women in Medicine Mentor Program**. For more information about the program and this gathering, see <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/mentor>. It's not too late to request a mentor. Please feel free to send in the participation form at the link noted above or e-mail [officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu](mailto:officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu).

**The Rhode Island Medical Women's Association (RIMWA)** invites medical

students to display their artwork at the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Physician Artists' Exhibit** next spring [May 11 – 22, 2009]. An opening night reception will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>. To express your interest in participating in the exhibit, please send your name, mailing address, e-mail, phone and type of art work to: Megan Turcotte [[mturcotte@rimed.org](mailto:mturcotte@rimed.org)] at RIMWA by **April 1, 2009**.

We welcome you to visit <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html> for details on upcoming events.

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## Matthew Reilley is Elected to Serve

Matthew Reilley, MD class of '11, has been elected to serve as the Northeast regional representative on the AAMC-OSR. The OSR is the student branch of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The AAMC is comprised of, and represents undergraduate and graduate medical education in the U.S.

The OSR is charged with the representation of the undergraduate medical student body of the U.S. to the academic medicine community. Unlike other student organizations (e.g., AMA-MSS, SNMA, or AMSA), who represent their membership, the OSR's constituency comprises all medical students. The concerns of the OSR lie exclusively within academic medicine and medical education.

Matthew is looking forward to representing Brown and the northeast region on this committee. Congratulations!



## **Essex South District Medical Society Scholarship (MA)**

Scholarships are awarded annually to assist in the medical education of students from an Essex South city or town. For more information, contact Florence Keefe: phone: (800) 944-5562, email: [fkeefe@mms.org](mailto:fkeefe@mms.org); mail: 860 Winter Street, Waltham, MA 02451-1411. Application deadline: December 1st of the academic year. Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarship (AAMC)

Five \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to students entering their third year of medical school who have shown leadership in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care and demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities in the United States. Student must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and nominated by the medical school. Applications are due May 2. Contact for information: Juan Amador, AAMC Diversity Policy and Programs, [NickensAwards@aamc.org](mailto:NickensAwards@aamc.org) or go to <http://aamc.org/about/awards/start.htm>

## **The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship**

Looking for medical students with a strong interest in public health or in practicing medicine with a broad, analytic perspective. Eight competitively selected fellows will spend 10-12 months at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offices in Atlanta, GA where they carry out epidemiological analysis in various areas of public health.

Application materials for the 2009-2010 fellowship year must be post-marked by Friday, December 5, 2008.

Find more at [www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience](http://www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience) or email [cdcexperience@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:cdcexperience@cdcfoundation.org).

## **2009 AFAR Grant Programs**

### **AFAR Research Grants**

AFAR provides up to 15 awards of \$75,000 for one-to two-years to junior faculty (MD and PhDs) to conduct research that will serve as the basis for longer term research efforts. AFAR-supported investigators study a broad range of biomedical topics.

Application deadline: December 6th, 2008. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

### **Julie Martin**

#### **Mid-Career Awards in Aging research**

This program encourages outstanding mid-career scientists whose research has the potential for high payoff in advancing our understanding of basic aging. Up to two four-year awards of \$550,000 will be awarded.

Application deadline: December 16, 2008. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

### **Glenn/AFAR**

#### **Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Award**

The goal of the Glenn/AFAR BI program is to provide timely support to a pilot research program that may be of relatively high risk but which offers significant promise of yielding transforming discoveries in the fundamental biology of aging. Two two-year grants of up to \$200,000 will be awarded.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2008. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

### **Paul Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging Research**

The award is aimed at bolstering the current and severe shortage of academic physicians who have the combination of medical, academic, and scientific training relative to caring for older people. Up to 10 grants of \$600,000 to \$800,000 will be awarded.

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Application deadline: November 3, 2008. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

**Paul Beeson Career Development Awards  
Awards in Aging Research Program for the Island  
of Ireland**

This program provides one award to an outstanding junior physician faculty on the Island of Ireland, who is committed to pursuing an academic career in aging-related research, teaching, and practice.

Application Deadline: January 22, 2009. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

**Ellison Medical Foundation/AFAR Postdoctoral  
Fellows in Aging Research Program**

This program addresses the current concerns about an adequate funding base for postdoctoral fellows (both MDs and PhDs) who conduct research in the fundamental mechanisms of aging. postdoctoral fellows at all levels of training are eligible. Up to fifteen one-year fellowships ranging from \$44,850 to \$58,850 will be awarded.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2008. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

**Medical Student Training in Aging Research  
(MSTAR) Program**

This partnership program provides medical students, early in their training, with an enriching experience in aging-related research and geriatrics, under the mentorship of top experts in the field. Students participate in an eight-to twelve-week structure research, clinical, and didactic program in geriatrics. Students may train at an NIA-supoprted National Training Center or, for a limited number of medical schools, at their own institution.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2009. Program Guidelines and applications can be obtained from [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)

**Horace Smith Fund/Walter S. Barr Scholarships  
(MA)**

At least four awards of \$5,000 are made annually to Hampden County, Massachusetts, residents who are selected on the basis of scholastic record, available resources, need and other pertinent information. These awards are renewable for up to three years. Applications are available online or by contacting the Horace Smith Fund. Applications are to be requested from and sent to The Secretary, The Horace Smith Fund, 1441 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103. Telephone: (413) 739-4222. Visit [www.horacesmithfund.org](http://www.horacesmithfund.org) for more details. Application deadline: February 1.

**The Pisacano Scholars Leadership Program**

This program is designed to provide educational services, leadership training, and funding to reimburse a portion of medical school related debt. Scholarships will be awarded to outstanding medical students for a four-year period. Students who have made a commitment to the field of family medicine and who **will enter their fourth year of medical school in the fall of 2009** may apply. The PLF will award scholarships with a maximum value of \$28,000 each for the 2009-2010 academic year. For additional information contact Jane Ireland at [jireland@fpleaders.org](mailto:jireland@fpleaders.org), (888) 995-5700 ex: 1249. Applications are available at [www.fpleaders.org](http://www.fpleaders.org). Application deadline: March 2.

**National Medical Fellowships-Emergency  
Scholarship Fund**

This fund provides a quick response to address third and fourth year underrepresented minority (African American, Latino, Native American, Alaskan and Hawaiian Natives, and Vietnamese or Cambodian Asian American) medical students need for immediate, emergency funding. Emergency scholarships are non-renewable and can range up to \$40,000 but average \$10,000-\$20,000. Applications require two essays, a letter from the Financial Aid Director and supporting documentation. Notification will be made within 15 days of receipt of application. For application materials and information please contact: Angelica Minaya, Program Coordinator, National Medical Fellowships, Inc at: 212-483-8880 x 304 or [AMinaya@NMFonline.org](mailto:AMinaya@NMFonline.org). No application deadline.

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### **Department of Neurosurgery, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**

Keith L. Black, MD, Chair of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's Department of Neurosurgery is proud to announce the availability of the 2009 Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Gifted Scholars in Neuroscience Award for undergraduate, graduate and medical students. The primary purpose of this award is to mentor and encourage young, potential scientists and physicians to enter the field of neurological research. The Washington Family is passionate about the importance of supporting the dreams of young adults as they further their education in the field of science. The Department of Neurosurgery is committed to providing educational programs to students, patients and their families, and healthcare providers. The Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Gifted Scholars Award further demonstrate their strong commitment to support the development of future neuroscientists.

Each year that this award is presented, one graduate or medical student will receive a \$2500 monthly stipend for a three-month period of time that they conduct research in a laboratory directed by Dr. Black at Cedars-Sinai. Awardees will continue to be mentored by Dr. Black after they complete their research. Each awardee will be expected to submit an abstract or scientific paper to a national neuroscience, cancer or neurosurgery organization. If the paper is accepted for presentation, the scholarship program will provide additional support to enable the student to attend and participate.

For further information regarding the award program, please contact:

The Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Gifted Scholars in Neuroscience Award  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
c/o Samantha Phu  
8631 W. Third Street, Suite 800E  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
(310) 423-9522 Fax: (310) 423-0810  
Email: [phus@cshs.org](mailto:phus@cshs.org)

The deadline for receipt of applications is January 9, 2009. To download the application or for more information, go to [www.cedars-sinai.edu/mdnsi](http://www.cedars-sinai.edu/mdnsi)

