

the pulse

The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Student Affairs Newsletter



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

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September 2008



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

I am excited to have been chosen as the sixth dean of medicine and biological sciences at Brown University and, The Warren Alpert Medical School. As a clinician and educator my appointment as dean allows me to fulfill a lifelong dream. I am committed to teaching as well as increasing our research programs with the goal of making the Alpert Medical School one of the very best in the country. Our reputation is good now, but we have the opportunity to be even better.

I am humbled by the students I teach and the patients I care for in the clinical practice I maintain at the Miriam Hospital treating HIV/AIDS. I have been and will remain a physician-mentor for the Doctoring course taken by first and second year students. I am dedicated to promoting and participating in the *prescription for change* for the new curriculum.

Being a mentor provides me with a deep level of personal satisfaction in supporting the physician's ultimate mission of taking care of patients. I also have the great honor of overseeing programs in Kenya, the Dominican Republic, India, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Russia. I regularly travel to Kenya and the Dominican Republic to teach and care for patients. The programs also provide outstanding educational opportunities for Brown undergraduates, medical students, residents and fellows, as well as faculty; approximately 100 individuals from Brown participate each year. In addition, the programs have over \$2 M in federal and foundation funding for both clinical and basic research. While some of my responsibilities revolve around administration I feel it absolutely essential to keep a hand in education, patient care, and research.

Supporting and promoting research is at the forefront of my agenda. The Alpert Medical School will continue to gain great strides by increasing our current research programs as well as establishing new programs with our affiliated hospitals. I have been funded by the NIH for decades in basic immunology research in HIV. We are at a time of great discoveries in biomedical research. New and better ways to di-

agnose and treat patients occur every month. For example in the early years of my funded research, HIV had a 100% mortality rate and today the survival of HIV patients is approaching that of the uninfected people. Developing new research programs with our hospital partners will create outstanding opportunities for our incoming and future students.

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Medical Student Affairs



Philip Gruppuso, M.D.
*Associate Dean for Medical
Education*

I would first like to welcome the members of the new Class of 2012. It was wonderful meeting so many of you during orientation and the early part of this new academic year. I look forward to the next four years together.

An event this fall will mark the start of the next phase of the Alpert Medical School's curriculum redesign process. In October, clerkship directors and coordinators along with other key participants in the redesign process will convene for a half day meeting to discuss the overall structure and content of the clinical years. The meeting will be led by Dr. Ed Feldmann, the Director of the Clinical Curriculum.

This meeting takes place at a time when a number of challenges must be met if we are to preserve the value of the medical school clinical experience. The short length of stay on most inpatient services has reduced students' opportunities for continuity and participation in the comprehensive care of patients.

The initial evaluation and of patients being admitted in the emergency department has changed the nature of the inpatient workup. Reimbursement requirements that mandate direct documentation by attendings have decreased the contribution to patient care of student notes. Electronic medical records and electronic ordering have threatened to reduce student participation in patient care. All of these factors need to be considered in determining the future of our core clerkships and other clinical rotations.

All this being said, the system continues to offer many of the things that have made the clinical years so valuable and formative. First and foremost is that students at our school have access to a large and diverse population along with a large and dedicated faculty. We also benefit from a deep commitment of clinical department faculty and chairs to medical education. As of last year, the medical school has provided direct financial support to clinical departments for teaching.

The redesign of the clinical curriculum has already involved students, largely through meetings that have been convened by Dr. Feldmann. As the process moves forward, we will involve students to a considerably greater extent. Student involvement was essential to the preclinical redesign. I anticipate that it will be even more important in making effective and thoughtful changes to the curriculum for years 3 and 4.

Office of Women in Medicine (OWM)

Debra Abeshaus
Director

Greetings and a warm welcome to everyone for the new academic year. The OWM will sponsor a presentation in collaboration with Brown's ADVANCE program that will feature guest speaker Virginia Valian, PhD, on September 12, 2008, 8:00 – 9:15am in the Brown Faculty Club. Dr. Valian, a professor of psychology at Hunter College, will address "Effectiveness in Influencing Decisions." She is the author of "Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women." For more information and to *rsvp* to the talk, please visit the OWM "What's New" web page at <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html>.

We invite you to expand your mentoring network by taking part in the 2008 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 and housestaff at Brown affiliated hospitals and with community-based physicians. For a program description, see <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/mentor.html>. We will send out details in September and will hold a reception to bring together mentors and mentees later this fall.

The *American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)* is an organization that works at the local, national and international level to advance women in medicine and to improve women's health. AMWA

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offers student members a number of opportunities. To learn more about student membership and AMWA's programs, see <http://www.amwa-doc.org/>.

For the latest information on upcoming OWM events and links to local and national activities around women in medicine, women's health and women in leadership, go to <http://bms.brown.edu/wim> or e-mail us at officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu.

Best wishes for the semester ahead!

PLME Senate

Jack Cossman '10/ MD '14
Maya Barsky '09/ MD '13

Welcome back to Brown! We hope you had a great summer and are ready to start an exciting and rewarding year, particularly one for the PLME Senate. As the new presidents, we are anxious to embark on a year filled with exciting social and educational events, and diversified community service opportunities. We are fully committed to involving as many PLMEs as possible into the whole PLME/premed community through the Senate, truly enlivening the purpose of our organization.

Sunday, September 14 is our first meeting (location TBA), scheduled after the hectic first week of choosing classes. Please come to the meeting if you're interested in getting involved! We will be holding elections for freshmen representatives, as well as

discussing the many ways for anybody to participate, regardless of prior experience. Additionally, we'll try to solidify our agenda for the semester and plan the opening barbecue. We have some great ideas in the works including movie/show nights, sports/trivia competitions, and trips. We will be discussing the Whole Patient and Physician Programs, clarifying our speakers and topics. For instance, carrying on from last year's lecture series, the Whole Physician Program has planned to invite more lecturers to discuss the integration of Eastern and Western medical practices, which will be open to the entire student body and faculty. Finally, we will also make sure that commitment to service stays a priority to the senate as we will encourage participation and make it easier to help the community regardless of individual time commitments. However, everything is still in the works, and if there's something you think should happen, the PLME Senate is what can help you accomplish your idea!

We look forward to making the Senate more important for all PLMEs. Therefore, we will regularly seek input from everyone in PLME, so that changes and improvements happen based on students' suggestions and needs. This is our eight years at Brown, and the PLME Senate is here to make it the most enjoyable, rewarding experience you deserve. Let's together strengthen our bonds to make the PLME a fantastic and interconnected community.

See you in September!

The Medical Student Senate

Kartik Venkatesh
President
Michael Gart
Vice President
Elizabeth Niemiec
Treasury Chair
Lauren de Leon
Secretary

We'd like to start out by welcoming the MD class of 2012. The Medical Student Senate is currently in the process of holding class elections and completing medical student appointments to university and medical school committees. We plan to have our final roster of Senate representatives and committee members available for the next issue of the Pulse.

Over the summer, as part of the new medical school website, the Senate has been in the process of a total re-do of our webpage to better serve medical students. The new webpage, which will be unveiled shortly, will include updated information on student group funding, current lists of student groups and leader contact information, a new revamped list of exam preparation materials, as well as senate meeting minutes and other administrative documents. We know this project is long overdue and look forward to hearing your comments on how we can improve the new Senate website.

Some of the other changes have been underway include an increasingly online based system for funding groups. We plan on streamlining this online process of providing funding to student groups that was first implemented last year.

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Additionally, all student groups have submitted group constitutions, which we hope to make available online in order to create a greater “institutional history” for student groups.

With the new year comes a new set of tasks for us to undertake, and much of the work of the Senate this year will be to provide real-time changes to improve student social and academic experiences. Some of the issues that students have already raised that we hope to pursue include travel support and study space. The Senate depends on active student support and involvement, so one of our major efforts this year is going to be creating greater venues for the student body to be involved in Senate activities. Part of this means you may be hearing from us quite often!

Please do not hesitate to contact us anytime. We look forward to an exciting year of serving and advocating for all medical students with your continued input and support.

Many thanks!

PLME

**Hilary Sweigart/
Dean Julianne Ip**

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 in Biomedical Center Suite 222 as a resource. We are here to support you in any way we can and our door is always open.

Our freshman PLME Class of 2012 is 51 and includes 30 women and 21 men, from California 10; Connecticut 2; Florida 2; Georgia 1; Illinois and Louisiana 1; Massachusetts 4; New Hampshire 1; New Jersey 3; New York 9; Ohio 1; Pennsylvania 3; Rhode Island 5; Texas 6; Canada and Hong Kong 1.

FRESHMEN: The first Whole Patient Program is scheduled for September 17 at 5:30 PM in the Faculty Club. Our speakers will be a Brown faculty physician and a patient. All freshmen are expected to attend and reservation for dinner is required by contacting Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu by September 8.

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 2009, you should have begun the AMCAS application. Send your AMCAS ID number to Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu by September 15, 2008. **DO NOT COMPLETE SECTION #6 OF THE APPLICATION** until after October 1st. More information is available at http://med.brown.edu/plme/AMCAS_2009.html.

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

<http://med.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.

**PARENTS' WEEKEND IS
OCTOBER 24–26, 2008**

**Office of Admissions
Barbara Fuller
Director of Admissions**

The Office of Admissions welcomes all medical students in the MD Class of 2012. We hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you feel refreshed for the start of the year.

Last year's admissions season proves that Alpert Medical School continues to be a popular choice among students applying for admission through our standard admissions route. Our office processed nearly 2,900 applications—a 10% increase over the prior year. We offered admission to 76 standard applicants, and 22 (12 men and 10 women) chose to attend Brown. Representing 20 colleges and universities, 10 were undergraduate concentrators in the humanities, and 12 majored in mathematics or the biological sciences. We also would like to welcome our five postbac and four EIP students. Your postbac classmates graduated from the programs at Bryn Mawr College and Goucher Colleges. Students admitted through the EIP are graduates of Tougaloo College, Rhode Island College, and Providence College.
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Added to the eclectic composition of the class are the graduates of the Program in Liberal Medical Education, two of whom were accepted to the MD/PhD Program. PLME students come from a variety of backgrounds, representing 25 different concentrations ranging from African American Studies to Engineering.

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 our hospitals? If the answer to either question is “yes,” and you are in your third or fourth year, please contact Lauren de Leon (MD’10), our hospital tour organizer and MD Admissions Committee member. You will be paid a fabulous sum to give 1.5 hour, hospital-based tours to prospective colleagues on interview days from October 2 through March 12. As always, contact Melissa Whiteley for more details. Melissa will also send out notices for campus tour guides and participants for the interview morning question-and-answer sessions.

All medical students are welcome to participate in our first admissions event, which is Postbaccalaureate Visiting Day on Friday, September 26. More details will be posted on the admissions website.

Office of Financial Aid

On behalf of the Office of Financial Aid, I would like to extend a warm welcome to new and returning medical students! I hope that you had a great summer and feel ready to embrace the new academic year. I have a few financial aid reminders that should ensure a smooth transition for all.

If you received Alpert Medical School loan funding as part of your aid package, you may have requirements to meet in order for this funding to be applied to your student account. Please make sure that all necessary promissory notes have been signed and returned to the Loan Office to ensure that your loan funding is posted to your student account in a timely way.

Your accepted financial aid should be applied to your student account by your first day of class. Aid is first used to meet your Brown billed charges of tuition and fees for the first semester. If you have a credit-balance remaining after these charges have been met, you may apply for a refund with the Office of the Bursar to use for your living expenses. The Bursar’s Office provides a form, the *Student Account Refund Request* form which can be accessed on their website at http://brown.edu/Administration/Financial_Services/Bursar/documents/WebRefundForm.pdf

As always, if you have any questions about your funding, necessary requirements and/or refund activity, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by calling 401-863-1142 or emailing at md_finaid@brown.edu.

Office of Minority Medical Affairs (OMMA)

Zoila Quezada,
Manager

The Office of Minority Medical Affairs (OMMA) would like to welcome the new Class of 2012 to Alpert Medical School.

OMMA, in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, provides academic support programs for medical students and works with the Office of the Program in Liberal Medical Education to provide support for undergraduate PLME students.

OMMA strives to create a collegial atmosphere for minority students, and encourage students to contact our office for advice and assistance.

Our services provide an opportunity for discussion of personal and academic issues on an individual basis, as well as referrals to community resources. The office advocates for underrepresented minority students and faculty on university committees, councils, and other policy-making bodies. OMMA facilitates networking opportunities to link faculty, minority alumni, and other medical professionals with minority medical students. It also initiates and presents programs and events for minority medical and undergraduate students. Also, advises and assists the Daniel Hale Williams Medical Society; AMS’ Chapter of the Student National Medical Association

We welcome all students to stop by and get acquainted with the staff!

Emma M. Simmons, MD, MPH
Assistant Dean
Minority Medical Affairs

Mercedes Domenech, MD, PhD
Associate Dean of Medicine
Minority Recruitment & Retention

Zoila Quezada, M.Ed, *Manager*
Minority Medical Affairs



Office of Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase

Director

Administrative Staff Changes

As of July 1, 2008, Maria Rose and Dionne Gomez have assumed new administrative positions within the Office of Curriculum Affairs.

In her new role, Maria serves as preclinical course coordinator. She is responsible for reproducing and disseminating course syllabi to first- and second-year students. She also places on MyCourses all preclinical course materials. In addition, Maria scans multiple choice exams, provides evaluation data to course leaders, and distributes exam grades to first- and second-year students. Finally, Maria coordinates online course and faculty evaluations.

Dionne Gomez now serves as course-budget coordinator and clinical course coordinator. In her role, Dionne is responsible for administrating all preclinical course budgets, all Patient Advocacy Coordinating Council (PACC) and Medical Senate grant funds to student-led organizations. In addition, Dionne works with Dr. Edward Feldmann, Director of the Clinical Curriculum, in organizing meetings and retreats, and arranging for outside reviews of the core clerkships.

Tutoring

This academic year the Office of Curriculum Affairs has expanded its tutoring services. In the first-year Doctoring course, twenty-four second-year teaching fellows plus four student coordinators coach first-year students in developing their clinical skills in history taking and the physical examination. An additional twenty-two teaching fellows tutor first-year students in the Anatomy course. Another 30 second-year students serve as content tutors in first-year courses such as Histology, Scientific Foundations of Medicine, General Pathology and Brain Sciences. Any first-year student who wishes a content tutor, please contact Brigid Dwyer, '11, Diana Moke, 11 or Dick Dollase.

Office of Financial Aid

Linda Gillette

Director of Financial Aid

On behalf of the Office of Financial Aid, I would like to extend a warm welcome to new and returning medical students! I hope that you had a great summer and feel ready to embrace the new academic year.

Please save the following dates for events that we have planned this fall:

- **Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) Fair**, September 16th and 18th, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm in the BMC. Recruiters from all branches of the US military will visit campus to talk with MD students about HPSP opportunities.
- **PLME Financial Aid Briefing** will take place on Tuesday, October 21st, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in room 202 of the BMC. This program is intended to familiarize seniors in the PLME program with financial aid programs at the medical school.
- **A Financial Wellness Program: Budget Planning**, sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid will feature speaker Wynette Richardson, Brown's Loan Office Manager, who will discuss budgeting tools and management guidance, on October 28th, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in room 202 of the BMC.

Also, I have a few financial aid reminders that should ensure a smooth transition to the new academic year for all.

- If you received Alpert Medical School loan funding as part of your aid package, you may have requirements to meet in order for this funding to be applied to your student account. Please make sure that all necessary promissory notes have been signed and returned to the Loan Office to ensure that your loan funding is posted to your student account in a timely way.
- Your accepted financial aid should be applied to your student account by your first day of class. Aid is first used to meet your Brown billed charges of tuition and fees for the first semester. If you have a credit-balance remaining after these charges have been met, you may apply for a refund with the Office of the Bursar to use for your living expenses. The Bursar's Office provides a form, the *Student Account Refund Request* form which can be accessed on their website at http://brown.edu/Administration/Financial_Services/Bursar/documents/WebRefundForm.pdf

As always, if you have any questions about your funding, necessary requirements and/or refund activity, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by calling 401-863-1142 or emailing at md_finaid@brown.edu.



opportunities

Please check the Alpert Medical School's website for upcoming information and applications on the following Alpha Omega Alpha opportunities:

2009 Alpha Omega Alpha
Pharos Poetry Competition

2009 Alpha Omega Alpha
Helen H. Glaser
Student Essay Awards

Alpha Omega Alpha
Visiting Professorships

2009 Alpha Omega Alpha
Carolyn L. Kuckein
Student Research Fellowships

Alpha Omega Alpha
Administrative Recognition Award

Alpha Omega Alpha
Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award

Alpha Omega Alpha
Medical Student
Service Project Award

additional opportunities!

GE/NMF is offering a two month elective in Ghana, West Africa starting the day after Residency Match Day and returning before graduation. Those eligible are individuals who are part of an underrepresented minority who are enrolled in their fourth-year in medical school.

The deadline for this is Sept. 1. For more information on this, please contact [Nicole Hollingshead@brown.edu](mailto:Nicole_Hollingshead@brown.edu)

American College of Surgeons

Interested in surgery? The Medical Student Program offers a great educational opportunity for any student considering a career in surgery. This opportunity aides in choosing a career in surgery, preparing for the residency selection process and help in easing the transition from medical school to residency. Students are responsible for all travel and lodging expenses. The registration deadline is Friday, September 15, 2008

<http://www.facs.org/clincon2008/registration/registrationform.pdf>

Fulbright U.S. Student Programs

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the United States Information Agency and administered by the Institute of International Education, is the U.S. Government's premier scholarship program, enabling students and artists to conduct research or study in over 140 countries around the world. Congress created the Fulbright Program in 1946, right after World War II; the broad mission of the program is to foster mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchange. The deadline for this application is in October.

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/fellowships/list/index.php?id=194

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease

The NIAID is the second largest institute of the NIH. They work to improve diagnosis, treatment and prevention of immunological, allergic and emerging infectious diseases. They are looking for students with a strong academic standing from an underrepresented population in biomedical research that wish to participate in a four day exploratory program in Bethesda, MD from Feb. 2-5, 2009. Travel, hotel and meals will all be paid. Applications due on October 15.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/labs/training/inro>

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MMI Fall Seminar Series

“How Malaria Causes Fever”

Date: Sep 04 2008 Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Eddy Auditorium

Douglas T. Golenbock
 University of Massachusetts Medical School
 Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases &
 Immunology
 Professor of Medicine
 Molecular Genetics & Microbiology

Brown Medical Alumni and House Staff Fall Festival

Date: Sep 06 2008 Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Lincoln Field, Brown Campus

Medical alumni and house staff and their families are invited for barbeque, games, and fun. Event is free, but please RSVP to AlpertMed_Events@brown.edu by September 1.

Monday Seminar Series

“Let there be light! Evolutionary origins of photoperception on animals”

Date: Sep 08 2008 Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: Sidney Frank Hall

Todd Oakley, Professor
 Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology
 University of California, Santa Barbara

MMI Seminar Series

“Signal Transduction in Innate and Adaptive Immunity”

Date: Sep 11 2008 Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Eddy Auditorium

Dr. Xiaoxia Li
 Cleveland Clinical Foundation
 Lerner Research Institute
 Department of Immunology

MMI Fall Seminar Series

“FEN1 mutations result in autoimmunity, chronic inflammation and cancers”

Date: Sep 18 2008 Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Eddy Auditorium

Binghui Shen, Ph.D., Professor and Director
 Department of Radiation Biology
 City of Hope National Medical Center and
 Beckman Research Institute
 Duarte, California

“FEN1 mutations result in autoimmunity, chronic inflammation and cancers”

The Paul J. Galkin Lecture Series

“XDR TB, in the Air and on the Ground”

Date: Sep 22 2008 Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Campus location TBA

presented by Gerald H. Friedland, MD,
 Director, Yale University AIDS program.
 Co-sponsored by the Brown University
 AIDS Center.

Evolution of Darwin’s Finches

Date: Sep 29 2008 Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: Sidney Frank Hall Life

Sciences Building
 Peter and Rosemary Grant
 Princeton University

october event

“Pluripotent Stem cells in Disease and Development”

Date: Oct 07 2008 Time: 4:15 p.m.

Location: LMM - Room 107

George Daley, M.D., Ph.D.
 Associate Professor of Biological Chemistry
 and Molecular Pharmacology
 Harvard Medical School



Please hold the following dates!

Sponsored by
the Office of Medical Student Affairs

September 25, 2008

“Town Hall Meeting”

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

MacMillan Hall, Starr Auditorium

Edward J. Wing, MD, Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences will meet with the medical student body to discuss student issues, followed by a Q&A session.

October 3, 2008

“Careers in Medicine Program Kickoff”

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Room 202, BioMed Center Building

Come join the Office of Medical Student Affairs and Brian J. Zink, MD and learn about Careers in Medicine (CIM). CIM is a web-based career planning program designed specifically for first and second-year medical students. CIM helps you explore specialty options and practice settings, choose a specialty that is right for you and ultimately attain the residency of your choice. Come learn about this exciting career development program.

October 6, 2008

**The Sixteenth Annual Harriet W. Sheridan
Literature and Medicine Lecture**

“How Doctors Think”

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Macmillan Hall, Room 117

Keynote Speaker: Jerome Groopman, MD
Recanati Chair of Medicine, Harvard University
Chief of Experimental Medicine, Beth Israel
Deaconess Medical Center. This lecture features
distinguished writers and literary scholars to
foster a reflective dialogue with the community
about the illness experience. A reception and
book signing will follow.

November 14, 2008

“BioMed Musicale”

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Alumnae Hall

BioMed faculty, staff, students, and alumni are encouraged to perform. Solo and ensemble performances are welcome, as are all musical styles, including pop, jazz, classical, blues, folk, and more. A “Performers Signup Session” will be held in September—and more details are forthcoming.

additional opportunities!

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Henry Luce Foundation’s Scholars Program

The Henry Luce Foundation’s Scholars Program, established in 1974, annually selects eighteen “Americans of outstanding promise” from a variety of fields to participate in one-year internships in Asia based on the participants’ career interests and preparation. Rather than offer training for future specialists, this program concentrates exclusively on providing an intensive experience in Asia to young Americans who have not specialized in Asian studies and who would not otherwise expect to have such an opportunity during the normal course of their careers. The deadline for this application is in November.

[http://www.brown.edu/Administration/
Dean_of_the_College/fellowships/list/
index.php?id=205](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/fellowships/list/index.php?id=205)

Exceptional Student Award Winner!

Jennifer Gao is one of our students who participated in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke’s Summer Program in the Neurological Sciences. As one of 27 Institutes and Centers comprising the National Institutes of Health, NINDS has occupied a central position in the world of neuroscience for over 50 years. Jennifer is one of the 2008 Exceptional Student Award winners this year!

[http://www.ninds.nih.gov/
jobs_and_training/summer/2008 stu-
dent/Jennifer Gao Abstract.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/jobs_and_training/summer/2008_student/Jennifer_Gao_Abstract.htm)



Osler Medal Essay Contest, 2009

The William Osler Medal is awarded annually for the best unpublished essay on a medical historical topic written by a student enrolled in a school of medicine or osteopathy in the United States or Canada. First awarded in 1942, the medal commemorates Sir William Osler, who stimulated an interest in the humanities among medical students and physicians. The writer of the winning essay will be invited to attend the 2009 AAHM meeting, 23–26 April, in Cleveland, Ohio, where the medal will be conferred. Reasonable travel expenses will be provided, as will a two-year complimentary membership in the AAHM. If the Osler Medal Committee also selects an essay for honorable mention, its author will receive a certificate and a two-year complimentary membership in the Association. All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy, or are graduates of the class of 2008, are eligible. The essay must have been written while the entrant was a student in good standing. Students are not eligible to compete for the Osler Medal who have by the closing date of the competition completed at least one full year of graduate training in history, the history of science or medicine, or the humanities or social sciences. Medical students who have been enrolled in a graduate program in history or a related discipline should submit their essays to the Shryock competition. No student should submit an essay to both competitions in the same year. Essays that have been awarded an Honorable Mention are not eligible for resubmission.

Essays may pertain to the historical development of a contemporary medical problem, or to a topic within the health sciences related to a discrete period of the past, and should demonstrate either original research or an unusual appreciation and understanding of the problems discussed.

The essay (maximum 9,000 words, including endnotes) must be entirely the work of one contestant.

Complete contest information may be viewed on the AAHM Web site (www.histmed.org/Awards) or obtained from the Osler Medal Committee Chair:

James R. Wright, M.D., Ph.D.,
Calgary Lab Services, 9,
3535 Research Rd, NW,
Calgary, AB T2L 2K8 Canada
(e-mail: jim.wright@cls.ab.ca).

Entries must be postmarked no later than *15 January 2009*.

American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation

The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation is pleased to announce two research programs. First, the Seed Grant Research Program provides \$2500 grants to medical students, physician residents and fellows to help them conduct basic science, applied, or clinical research projects. Grants will be awarded in the following categories: Cardiovascular/Pulmonary Diseases; HIV/AIDS; Leukemia; Neoplastic Diseases; Secondhand Smoke. Applications are due by *December 12, 2008* and recipients will be announced by *March 2009*. Applications are available on our website at www.amafoundation.org and questions can be emailed to seedgrants@ama-assn.org.

Second, the National and Regional Student Research Forums offer medical and graduate students the opportunity to present their research, receive meaningful feedback and participate in scholarly discussions with peers and established scientists. Awards are given to the top-rated oral and poster presentations. To participate, students must submit an abstract directly to the forum of their choosing by visiting www.amafoundation.org:

Western Forum, January 28-31, 2009 in Carmel, CA Deadline: *October 3, 2008*

Eastern-Atlantic Forum, February 25-28, 2009 in Miami, FL Deadline: *November 30, 2008*

Midwest Forum, February 27-28, 2009 in Omaha, NE Deadline: *December 5, 2008*

National Forum, April 23-25, 2009 in Galveston, TX Deadline: *January, 2009*

If you have any questions, you may call the AMA Foundation 312-464-4200.

