

the pulse

The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Student Affairs Newsletter



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

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Medical Student Affairs
Phil Gruppuso, MD
Associate Dean

At the Commencement week meeting of the Brown Corporation, the BioMed division was given the go-ahead with the design and building of our new medical education building. We will renovate the 100,000+ gross square feet in the Brown-owned building at 222 Richmond Street. The University has completed the architect selection process, and we have begun working with the firm that was chosen, Ellenzweig. This is a firm that has considerable medical education, medical research and healthcare

experience. You may want to look at their website (<http://www.ellenzweig.com/>) to get a feeling for some of the outstanding work they have done.

We are aiming for an ambitious completion date of August 2011. That means that the design process will take place over the next four months. Input from those of us in medical education will be provided through three working groups. These groups will focus on education, student life and administration. The first two of these groups will have student members. I have already contacted the Senate leadership to ask that they undertake a process to identify the students who will be involved. As the design process moves along over the summer, we will try to see to it that the broader population of students and faculty can have input. That will be a challenge given the time of year and the very short time line.

At the same time the building design process is moving along, we will be well into the task of redesigning the curriculum for years 3 and 4. We hope to be forming working groups within the next month or two. The charge to these groups will be

based on some of the basic tenets of the redesigned curriculum. There has been broad consensus on the curriculum committee that we should move towards completion of core requirements during year three. To do so, we will have to reduce the total number of weeks spent in core rotations. This will likely mean that some "advanced core rotations" will be required during year four. Completion of the core rotations during year three, while still accommodating

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elective time during that year, will allow students to make an informed career decision at the start of year 4. This, in turn, will allow us to put in place a system by which students will develop an individualized educational plan for year 4. All of this is intended to maximize students' ability to make their career choice and successfully compete for the residency position of their choice.

Other basic aspects of the new curriculum are still under discussion. We expect that details will be worked out by early 2010, thereby allowing us to implement components of the new curriculum by the start of the 2010-2011 academic year. As was the case for the year 1-2 redesign, we expect that student input will be critical. Please look for a call for interested students to become involved in the process. You should also feel free to discuss the redesign with your class representatives to the curriculum committee. Finally, we hope that 4th year students, though they will not benefit from the redesign, will contribute. Their experience and perspective will lend a great deal to the process.

Office of Admissions
Barbara Fuller, Director

Thank you to every student who participated in the 2008-09 admissions season!

The admissions season officially ended with a terrific Second Look Program on May 8-9, 2009. Melissa

Whiteley planned a marvelous event, but we couldn't have done it without the many students who participated in some aspect of the program and attended the social events. Thanks in particular to Steve Lee, Andy Brunner, Jessica Feldman, and the fabulous anatomy demonstrators (Tristan, Gabrielle, Nick, Chintan, Vivek and Natasha). Thanks to Nitin, MaryBeth, and Bridget for discussing your scholarly concentrations with humor and enthusiasm; kudos to Ala, Matt, Dave, and Jill, for representing the Doctoring Teaching Academy during the small group discussions. Special thanks go to our faculty and staff who gave up a Saturday to attend: Julie Taylor, Emily Green, Roni Phipps, Ed Feller, and Beth Sutton.

The admissions staff wishes good-bye to our graduating admissions committee members: Josh Lakin, Jeremy Boyd, Sonia Garg, Cliff Voigt, Erin McDermott, and Rajeev Chaudhry. They did a stellar job in representing the diversity of our medical student body while evaluating candidates to follow in their footsteps at AMS. If anyone is interested in being a member of the 2009-10 admissions committee, please contact Barbara Fuller.

As of June 5, our committee members interviewed 231 prospective students. We're still in the process of finalizing the class, but we currently have 39 standard admits, 5 postbacs, and 4 EIP students in addition to the 47 PLMEs and one MD/PhD student in the MD Class of 2013.

Office of Medical Student Affairs

Emily Green, Assistant Director

We are pleased to report a very successful Summer Assistantship (SA) application process this year. SA's support medical student research and project work during the summer between years 1 and 2. Each successful applicant receives an award of \$3500 to support their scholarly endeavors.

The competitive application process resulted in some very exciting projects being funded this year. For example, Jonathan Liu will be conducting research on the role of survivin acetylation in cell cycle regulation with his mentor, Dr. Rachel Altura. Ryan Graddy is traveling to South Africa to investigate factors influencing HIV risk in young adult males. Ryan's mentor for this work is Dr. Abigail Harrison. And as part of her Scholarly Concentration in Disaster Medicine and Response, Angela Hua's project is a study of injury and illness patterns of workers during the 9/11 rescue and recovery operation at the World Trade Center. She will be working closely with her mentor, Dr. Selim Suner, who directs the concentration.

The Summer Assistantship Review Committee, which includes the Associate Dean for Medical Education, Philip Gruppuso, as well as several faculty, staff and medical students, was able to fund nearly three quarters of the total applications. Funded projects reflect a range of student interests from basic science research to an exploration of meditation and its contemporary applications to health (Tracey Simon). 10 medical

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students receiving an SA will be traveling internationally to 7 different countries this summer including the Dominican Republic, South Africa, India, Uganda, Nepal, Ghana, as well as American Samoa.

We wish all students a wonderful summer and look forward to hearing about their exciting projects when they return. This cohort of students will have a chance to discuss their summer activities with faculty and year 1 students during the second annual Summer Preparation Day on December 9, when second year students create and present posters of their work.

**MD Class of 2009
Award Recipients Presented
at the Graduation Dinner
held on June 23, 2009**

Faculty Awards:

Amos Charles, MD
Clinical Associate Professor of
Medicine
Joseph Diaz, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Mark Fagan, MD
Professor of Medicine
Fred Schiffman, MD
Professor of Medicine

Resident Awards:

Cara Mathews, MD
House Staff Officer, Ob/Gyn
Evangelos Messaris, MD
House Staff Officer, Surgery

Administrative Awards:

Donna Arruda
Events Manager, Office of
Medical Student Affairs
Richard Dollase, PhD
Director, Curriculum Affairs
Alexandra Morang, MA
Director of Medical Student
Affairs
Janice Viticone
Residency Program Coordinator

Multiculturalism Award:

Mark Fagan, MD
Professor of Medicine

Commencement Marshals:

Chief Marshall

Preston Calvert '76 MD'79

**Reunion Medical Alumni
Marshalls:**

Griffin P. Rodgers '76 MMS'79
MD'79
Michael W. Cropp, MD'76
MD'79
Ingrid A. Rodi MD '76 MD'79
Janet Schaffel '76 MD'79
Keith M. Kerman '80 MD'84
Theodore R. Jacobs MD'84
Peter A. Thompson '80 MD'84
Daniel A. DiPrete MD '85 MD'89
Colleen P. Cavanaugh MD'89
RES'93
Timothy J. Hunter MD'89
David C. Lyden MD'89
Michael Wein MD'89
Lisa A. Taitsman '90 MD'94
Rohina Gandhi-Hoffman '90
MD'94
Melisa W. Lai Becker '94 MD'99
Stephen W. Gilheaney '95
MMS'97 MD'99
Garey H. Noritz '95 MD'99
Erika J. Mitchell '95 MD'99
Sreekanth K. Chaguturu '99
MD'04

First Marshall:

Joseph Diaz, MD

Faculty Marshalls:

Brian K. Alverson, MD
Julianne Ip, MD
Beth Ryder, MD
Dale Ritter, PhD
Dominick Tammaro, MD

Hooders:

Brian K. Alverson, MD
Edward R. Feller, MD

Student Marshalls:

Jeremy Boyd, MD '09
Steve Rougas, MD '09

**Candidate for the Medical Senior
Citation:**

Edward R. Feller, MD
Adjunct Professor of
Community Health

Symbolic Degree Recipient:

John Rommel, MD '09



**Brown University Medical
Students Honored for
Promoting Awareness of LGBT
Health Issues**

Arlington, Va.—Brown University medical students Jason Lambrese and Andrea Lach Dean are being awarded for their efforts to promote awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) health issues and concerns on their campus. The group, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies Advancing Medicine, was presented the LGBT Health Achievement Award, given annually by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA).

“The students at Brown did an incredible job creating a wide variety of innovative and sustainable programming,” said Laura Erickson-Schroth, chair of the AMSA Committee on Gender and Sexuality. “We’re thrilled to recognize their efforts.”

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“These students are leading the way to a future in which LGBT patients receive care that’s as good as anyone else would receive, and in which LGBT health care professionals are not discriminated against in their work,” said Joel Ginsberg, GLMA’s executive director.

The award was presented on Friday, March 13, 2009 at AMSA’s 59th Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia.

About the American Medical Student Association

The American Medical Student Association (AMSA), with more than a half-century history of medical student activism, is the oldest and largest independent association of physicians-in-training in the United States. Founded in 1950, AMSA is a student-governed, non-profit organization committed to representing the concerns of physicians-in-training. With more than 67,000 members, including medical and premedical students, residents and practicing physicians, AMSA is committed to improving medical training as well as advancing the profession of medicine. To learn more about AMSA, our strategic priorities, or joining the organization, please visit us online at www.amsa.org/.

About the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) is one of the world’s leading organizations dedicated to achieving equality in healthcare for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)

Note From LGBT Health Achievement Award Recipients:

To all those who have been instrumental to the success of the Gender and Sexuality elective course:

We are pleased to let you know that Andrea and I are the 2009 recipients of the LGBT Health Achievement Award, co-presented by the American Medical Student Association and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. We are so honored to have received this recognition. This could not have been possible without the support, mentorship and guidance of each of you.

Thank you again for all that you have done for us and for the lgbt community.

Best,
Jason Lambrese,
Andrea Lach Dean

Office of Minority Medical Affairs Zoila Quezada, Manager

Assistant Dean Emma Simmons and Manager Zoila Quezada would like to congratulate all 2009 MD graduates.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, OMMA:

- Welcomed the new Assistant Dean of Minority Medical Affairs Emma Simmons, MD, MPH
- Launched a new mentoring program

- Coordinated The Dr. Veronica Petersen ’55 and Dr. Robert A. Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund Committee which selected five projects from ten submitted proposals for the 2009 funding cycle
- Sponsored the Student National Medical Association Region VII Conference
- Supported conference and recruitment fair attendance for students and staff

The **Petersen Fund** 2010 award cycle applications will be available in November of 2009. Stay tuned for future announcements.

