

# the pulse

The Brown Medical School Student Affairs Newsletter



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

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## A Word from the Dean



Last month, almost 230 years to the day, the state which set forth the American Revolution fired yet another shot heard 'round the world. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney

signed into law a bill that expands health insurance coverage to all residents of the state. Years from now, you might just be able to say that while in medical school you witnessed the first step on the long road to abolishing uninsurance. This act—the result of much creativity, collaboration and compromise—represents to my mind a major step forward in the national debate over our country's crisis of uninsurance. The law is doubtless imperfect—some say, for example, that it does not account for the high administrative costs associated with insurance. Still, it is a start and the likely subject of ongoing refinement in Massachusetts and elsewhere. The goals are laudable, as are the means proposed to arrive at the desired end point. In principle, the new law will see to it that by 2009, more than 99 percent of Massachusetts' residents will have been afforded health insurance. Among several approaches, the law will make use of funds that currently cover free care provided to those who cannot afford the high costs of health care. The insurance market itself may also change for the better as small businesses and individuals gain access to new, affordable plans.

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## Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppiso

Associate Dean for Medical Education

As the subject of this month's column, I would like to provide the "minutes" of a recent meeting that was held in my office. The topic was AOA. The participants were members of the medical student senate from all four years (Brad Weinberg, Jim Wilkerson, Saira Alimohamed, Robert Markelewicz and Jonathan Grossberg), AOA councilor Charlotte Boney, and myself. We focused on three main subjects: Is AOA right for Brown Med and, if so, how could it best be implemented, and how can we promote open discussion of what is a very divisive issue?

We first discussed the pros and cons of activating AOA. Consensus was that major benefits included the following: An AOA chapter would help improve the perception of Brown Medical School among the clinical faculty and clinical chairs, who have long been in favor of an active chapter; AOA recognizes scholastic excellence, which is something we value; AOA promotes strong values beyond grades and test scores, as is evident by the AOA constitution; AOA is an honor that elected students can carry on their CVs for their careers; AOA chapters come with scholarships and research funds for students; an active chapter would allow resident and faculty members to participate in an organization to which they belong. The major negatives included: AOA could detract from Brown Med's uniqueness; it might increase competition and change the atmosphere at our school; the resurrection of AOA might alienate alumni, parents, and students; students who aren't inducted might be harmed; there are some students who chose Brown, in part, for its non-AOA status.

After discussing these ideas, the majority of the attendees at the meeting acknowledged that the discussion of AOA at Brown should continue, and that many of the perceived negatives resulted from poor communication and the lack of student involvement in the reinstatement process. We then discussed the selection process, using the AOA constitution and the already established algorithms for fourth year awards as guidelines. Ideas discussed included incorporating student input into the process and ways to deal with students with special circumstances. We discussed but didn't resolve whether it would be fair to induct current students. Consensus was that inducting students after the match would be a good way of incorporating the benefits of AOA without adversely affecting students' career opportunities.

Most importantly, the discussion helped bridge the previous AOA divide. We all hope that over the coming weeks and months, the discussion will continue and that we can develop consensus that will allow the issue to move forward.

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## Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang

Director

Graduation is right around the corner and plans for the commencement ceremonies are rapidly moving along! Eighty-nine students will receive their M.D. degree on May 28th. Our graduating students have chosen Mr. Geoffrey Canada to be their speaker. Mr. Canada is the President/CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone and the author of *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun*.

Class of 2007: Study Space News; The Sciences Library WILL be open with extended hours to accommodate second-year students studying for Step 1. Beginning on May 30 through June 16, the Sci Li will be open from 8:30am-10pm Monday through Friday, 10am-9pm on Saturday and 1-9pm on Sunday. Check the library web site for additional information at <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/hours/index.php>. In addition, there are several study rooms in the Sciences Library that can be reserved by individuals and small groups. These rooms hold 6-10 students comfortably, have two walls of blackboards, and can be reserved for 4 hour time blocks. To check the hours visit <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/hours/index.php>. Please contact Ginine\_Hefner@brown.edu to reserve study space.

At the BMC: From early May through the end of June, Peter Holden has agreed to open Room 202 and 291 with 24 hour access on the weekends for final exam and

Step 1 study. He will also arrange to have these rooms open during the evening and overnight hours Monday through Friday. In addition, you will have access to the seminar and conference spaces in the building.

Pembroke Hall: Pembroke Cluster (3rd floor of Pembroke Hall, directly across from the BMC) has been reserved as exclusive study space for medical students from May 17th through July 1st. The cluster will be open from 8:30am -2:00am Monday through Friday and 12pm-2am on the weekends. Although this space does not have Internet access, its hours run well into the night and provides another option for those who may want to use it.

A few reminders to the class of 2006: graduation rehearsal is at 11:00AM on Saturday, May 27th at the First Unitarian Church. Breakfast will be provided. If you are not planning to attend graduation, please let Donna Arruda know ASAP. The class photograph will be taken on Sunday, May 28th at 9:00 AM at the Marcus Aurelius Statue. You can see Donna to order the class photo and/or your hooding photo. REMEMBER!! You need to get on the Internet to fill out your AAMC graduation questionnaire prior to graduation! Just go to the Web at <http://www.aamc.org/gq>. You will receive information from your classmates very soon on senior-week activities scheduled for the week of May 22nd. Have fun!

I wish you all the very best for a wonderful summer!

## Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase

Director

At the April 19, 2006 meeting of the MD Curriculum Committee, Dr. Luba Dumenico reported on the new design for the first-year curriculum. The new curriculum redesign for the first semester, first year is outlined below. The redesign for the second semester of the first year is not yet finalized, however it will be available for review by the middle of May 2006.

OVERVIEW of Curricular Changes planned for Year I - 2006-2007:

True integration will require that we think in a new way about course content, such that learning builds in a progressive manner – based more on logical sequencing of material than on course-dependent logistics. The curricular content for semester one includes elements of a number of first year courses – but other components have been shifted to semester two (for example, head and neck anatomy), and to year two (such as physiology).

Major curricular changes planned for Year I include the following:

1. Biochemistry is being moved from semester two to semester one, year one. The rationale is that students are no longer required to have completed biochemistry prior to matriculation at Brown Medical School (a change made to accommodate standard route admission applicants). Note that some components of biochemistry have been shifted to year two (heme metabolism/gene expression).

2. Head and neck anatomy will be moved to the first three weeks of January (a move from semester one to semester two), which has two benefits:

- a. This January "head and neck" anatomy section will precede a "brain block"

## take a study break!

Ben & Jerry's Make Your Own Sundae Social

Open to all PLME and Medical Students

Friday, May 5 from 3:00-4:30pm

BMC 217, Faculty Lounge

(an integrated neurobiology, neuro-pathophysiology, and brain and behavior course).

b. Moving this part of anatomy to semester two allows general pathology (currently taught as a second semester course) to move to semester one.

3. General pathology will move to a five-week block at the end of the first semester. This course covers fundamental concepts such as cell injury, acute and chronic inflammation, apoptosis and necrosis, carcinogenesis, etc. Moving general pathology to the first semester allows us to begin systems in the second semester. Neuropathophysiology, for example, one of the courses in the envisioned "brain course," would require an understanding of the basic principles introduced in the general pathology course.

4. Immunology (currently part of microbiology) and genetics (currently part of biochemistry) will be taught in the first semester.

5. Physiology (currently covering cell physiology, respiratory physiology, cardiovascular physiology, renal physiology, G.I. physiology, and endocrine physiology) will be moved to the second year, with the exception of cell physiology which will remain with basic cell biology at the start of the first year.

## Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer  
Director

Thank you to students involved in interview days!

We are rapidly moving toward the completion of the 2005-2006 application cycle – a season that saw a 66% increase in applications to the Medical School. While the size of the applicant pool certainly reflects the growing awareness

across the country of our medical program, admissions staff and committee members also have been impressed with the quality of our applicants. The 230 candidates who interviewed at Brown this past year stood out for their many qualities, including academic excellence, strong research abilities and experience, and their commitment to community service. Their excitement about Brown Medical School was evident, and for this we have a number of our current students to thank. Highlights of the interview days included informal breakfast discussions with first- and second-year students and hospital tours with third- and fourth-year students. Applicants reported that the information, enthusiasm and perspective provided by BMS students was immensely valuable in helping them to understand the unique qualities of the Medical School. On behalf of the Admissions Committee, we offer our deepest thanks for sharing your time and insights, and for your role in representing BMS to future students.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LOAN CONSOLIDATION:** Last month, we conducted two meetings to brief students regarding loan consolidation. If you were not able to attend either meeting, please visit our website for the details. ([http://bms.brown.edu/admissions/financialaid/loan\\_consolidation.html](http://bms.brown.edu/admissions/financialaid/loan_consolidation.html)). Loan consolidation enables you to refinance most Federal loans (including Stafford and Perkins loans) into a new, single loan with a fixed rate. The rate that you receive on a consolidation loan is based upon a weighted average of the interest rates for the loans that you include in the consolidation. The weighted average rate is then rounded to the nearest higher 1/8<sup>th</sup> of one percent.

Interest rates on existing Stafford loans issued on or after July 1, 1998 will increase to 6.8% on July 1 of this year. Therefore, our office strongly recommends that all students with Stafford loans consolidate these loans before July 1. You may consolidate Federal loans borrowed while at

## may calendar

May 3  
Sex, Power & Advancement: What have we learned? What are we learning?  
4:30pm at WIH, Auditorium C&D

May 5  
Study Break Sundae Social  
3:00pm in MBC 217 Faculty Lounge

May 8  
Rhode Island Medical Women's Association  
Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary  
6:30pm at the Brown Faculty Club

May 11  
OMMA End of Year Celebration  
5:30pm at the Faculty Club

May 15  
Rhode Island Medical Women's Association  
Physician Artists Exhibit Opening  
Dryden Galleries at 27 Dryden Lane

May 16  
Petersen Fund Project Presentations  
12:00pm at Eddy Auditorium

May 17-July 1  
Pembroke Cluster reserved for study

May 27  
Graduation Rehearsal  
11:00am at the First Unitarian Church

May 27  
PLME Graduation Reception  
5:30pm in Leung Gallery

May 28  
Class Photograph  
9:00am at the Marcus Aurelius Statue

May 28  
Commencement

May 30 - June 16  
Sci-Li Extended Hours  
visit <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/hours/index.php> for more details.

# opportunities

Perot Systems, in collaboration with the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Foundation, has opportunities available for their summer 2006 internship program. Clinical Information Technology internships for two selected medical students to join the team for six-weeks this summer. Students will receive both experiential and didactic training by working in clinical situations at healthcare organizations involved in the deployment of clinical information systems. For detailed information and applications visit <http://www.amsa.org/programs/CIT.cfm> or contact 972-577-5106.

The Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic and The Department of Psychiatry of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine are pleased to announce the Fifth Dr. Thomas Detre Senior Medical Student Award for advanced students planning a career within psychiatry. Awardees will have the opportunity to create a unique one-month clinical sub-internship or research experience with a faculty member of our department. Our clinical and research faculty are world renowned for contributions in pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy, child and adolescent psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, mood disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, eating disorders and substance use disorders. This award includes a \$1,000 cash stipend to cover expenses. Application deadline is May 12, 2006. For additional information and application forms contact Jason Rosenstock, M.D. at [rosenstockjb@msx.upmc.edu](mailto:rosenstockjb@msx.upmc.edu) or 412-246-5122 or visit [www.wpic.pitt.edu/PsychMedStudent/DetreAward.htm](http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/PsychMedStudent/DetreAward.htm)

AMSA six-week summer fellowship programs: End of Life Care Fellowship, June 19-July 28, 2006. Application deadline: April 10, 2006. Primary Care LTP. Learning from Each Other: Cultural Competency in Medicine and Dentistry. Additional information available in February online. The Paul Ambrose Health Promotion Student Leadership Symposium, June 22-25, 2006. For application deadline visit [www.atpm.org](http://www.atpm.org). National Primary Care Week, Addressing Health Disparities: Healing the Nation. October 15-21, 2006. For further information and applications on all programs, students should refer

to [www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org). If you have questions contact [joan\\_h@amsa.org](mailto:joan_h@amsa.org) or (703) 620-6000 ext. 208.

The Coler Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility is offering a six-week summer multi-specialty/ multidisciplinary externship from July 11-August 18, 2006. The goals of the program include acquiring an understanding of chronic illnesses and interdisciplinary team approach that is required to care for people with chronic illnesses. Free board and lodging provided at the hospital. Apply by May 9, 2006. For additional info contact Harvey Jolt, Ph.D. at (212) 318-4082 or [Harvey.Jolt@nychhc.org](mailto:Harvey.Jolt@nychhc.org)

The Center of Alcohol Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is pleased to announce that Scaife Family Foundation Fellowships are available for students enrolled in medical schools in the United States to attend the one-week Institute of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 9-14, 2006). Fellowships will cover tuition, room and meals, and a \$400 stipend. Application deadline is June 16, 2006. For additional information contact (732) 445-4317 or [collinsj@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:collinsj@rci.rutgers.edu) or visit <http://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu>

The Wellsford and Mildred Clark Medical Memorial Scholarship, established to provide scholarships for third-year medical students entering their fourth-year of medical school, is currently accepting applications. Applicants must be residents of Connecticut for five years. For additional information contact (860) 243-3977 or email [pdarby@ssmgt.com](mailto:pdarby@ssmgt.com).

Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Program is currently soliciting applications for the sixth class of fellows. The 2006-07 fellows will begin in July 2006. Fellows receive stipends of \$25,000 and health insurance to spend a year conducting clinical research and receiving didactic training. For information visit [www.ddcf.org/mrp/crf](http://www.ddcf.org/mrp/crf).

Brown as well as Federal loans borrowed for attendance at other schools.

We urge you to start the consolidation process now. You will need to organize your paperwork, including account numbers, current balances, and contact information for your lender(s). The website describes three methods for consolidating your loans (by telephone, via the web, or a paper application) as well as a website where you can obtain the details regarding your lender name and contact information. Once you have your paperwork together, the application takes only about fifteen minutes to complete.

Please let us know if you have additional questions. Do not miss this opportunity to refinance your loans at a historically low rate.

If you are planning to be away for the summer, please check with our office before you leave campus to be sure that your financial aid application is complete and that the summer address listed on your financial aid application is correct.

Financial aid awards will be mailed to all continuing students in mid-May.

All of us in the Admissions and Financial Aid Office offer our congratulations to the graduating MD Class of 2006. We wish you continued success in your medical careers! Please keep in touch and let us know how we can help you in the future.

To everyone else, we wish you a restful summer!

## Minority Medical Affairs

Alicia Monroe

Associate Dean of Medicine

End of Year Celebration: The Office of Minority Medical Affairs will host its annual "End of Year Celebration" on Thursday, May 11, 2006 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the Faculty Club. A dinner buffet will be provided. Please feel free to invite a couple of friends or family members to help you celebrate. If you are able to attend, please email Fiona Greenlaw at [Fiona\\_Greenlaw@brown.edu](mailto:Fiona_Greenlaw@brown.edu) or call her at (401) 863-3335 by Friday, May 5, 2006.

## Professional Development

Monika Bolino

Coordinator

Petersen Fund Project Presentations and Reception: Please join us on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:00pm – 1:00 pm in Eddy Auditorium (BMC 291) for presentations by last year's recipients of The Dr. Veronica Petersen '55 and Dr. Robert A. Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund at Brown Medical School. Spring 2005 recipients Christina Cinelli MD'08, Roy Kao MD'07, and Bethany Stafford MD'08 will present on their work with the Magnet Club, a health careers program for eighth graders at a Providence school. Fall 2005 recipient Heidi Brown MD'06 will provide an update about her project,

a Prenatal Workshop Series at Progreso Latino in Central Falls. A light reception in the Eddy Lounge will precede the presentations.

Spring 2006 Petersen Fund applications: Applications have been received for the Spring 2006 funding cycle, and are presently under review. The Spring 2006 recipients will be notified mid-May. For more information about the Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund, please contact Monika Bolino at [Monika\\_Bolino@brown.edu](mailto:Monika_Bolino@brown.edu), 401-863-2881. Applications for the Fall 2006 cycle will be available in September.

New members on Dean's Advisory Council on Faculty Diversity at Brown Medical School: The Council welcomes new student representatives Sybil Dessie MD'08 and Ben Mathis MD'08, co-presidents of the Student National Medical Association, and Joshua Honeyman MD'07, Treasurer of the Medical Student Senate.

The Office of Professional Development wishes all a joyful summer!

## Office of Women in Medicine

Debra Abeshaus

Director

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Women in Medicine Residency Fair last month and special thanks to Sandy Chira MD'08, for her support with the event. We welcome your suggestions for next year's program particularly on specialty areas that you would like to see represented [e-mail: [Kathleen\\_Haslam@brown.edu](mailto:Kathleen_Haslam@brown.edu)].

Did you meet with a mentor through the WIM Mentor Program over the past academic year? Please send us your comments on the experience. Also, if you're searching for a mentor, it's not too late to find someone. Stop by Arnold Lab 132, call x3-2450/7960 or e-mail your interests to: [Debra\\_Abeshaus@brown.edu](mailto:Debra_Abeshaus@brown.edu), [Michele\\_Cyr@brown.edu](mailto:Michele_Cyr@brown.edu).

## student news

Zac Ginsberg MD'08, has been elected as the National Public Health Justice Coordinator, Community and Public Health Action Committee for AMSA.

Kirsten Spalding MD'08 has been elected as the National Health Disparities Coordinator, Community and Public Health Action Committee

Flavio Casoy MD'08, has been elected as the Chair of the Medical Education Action Committee.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 3, 2006 – Spring leadership event evening lecture “Sex, Power and Advancement, What have we learned? What are we learning?” Janet Bickel, MA, Career Development and Executive Coach, Women & Infants Hospital, Auditoriums C&D – lower level, 4:30- 5:00pm gathering & refreshments; 5:00 – 6:30pm, presentation & q/a. rsvp: 274-1122, x2833.

May 4, 2006 – “Promoting Resilience and Renewal – Strategies for Staying Connected to What Matters Most,” a professional development conference for women medical faculty - Bryant University, Smithfield, RI, 7:30am – 1:45pm. For more information on attending, call the Office of Women in Medicine, 863-7960/2450. See conference brochure at OWM website: <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html>.

May 8, 2006 – Rhode Island Medical Women’s Association – Annual Meeting and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Brown Faculty Club. 6:30pm reception, 7:00pm dinner & program. Guest speaker: Teresa Schraeder, MD, Journalist, The NEJM, will speak on Medicine and the Media: How the News Impacts Patients, Clinicians, Researchers and Medical Care. For reservations, contact the RIMWA Office at 331-3207 or call the Office of Women in Medicine at 863-2450.

May 15, 2006 – Rhode Island Medical Women’s Association Physician Artists Exhibit Opening. Location: Dryden Galleries/Providence Picture Frame Co. 27 Dryden Lane, Providence. RSVP - 331-3207.

We look forward to meeting with next year’s AMWA representatives.

A great summer for all -- & best wishes to the graduates!

#### PLME

Julianne Ip, Associate Dean  
Hilary Sweigart, PLME Manager

THANK YOU to all the PLME and medical students who were either panelists or minglers at A Day on College Hill on April 19. You provided important information and support to prospective Class of 2010 students who are trying to make their final decision about coming to Brown and the PLME. We appreciate your time and efforts!

Study hard for your finals and get an early start on your final papers...we expect that you will be doing an excellent job academically. All PLMEs and BMS 1-2 are invited to a STUDY BREAK at the Ben & Jerry’s Make Your Own Sundae Social, on Friday, May 5, 3:00-4:30 PM in BMC 217, Faculty Lounge — Be there, or be square!

PLME Seniors: The PLME Graduation Reception is scheduled for Saturday, May 27, 5:30-6:30 PM in Leung Gallery. We are excited to share this time with you and your families. Some of the class will be delaying entry into the medical school, so this is a great event to bring the Class of 2006 together one last time to receive your BMS pins. CONGRATULATIONS to the following 2005-06 PLME award-

ees: Sharon David, Community Service Award; Emily Stopa, Milton Hamolsky Prize; Kartik Venkatesh, Babette and Peter Stewart Prize; Jasmine Bauknight, Frederick W. Barnes Prize; and Victor Long, Pierre M. Galletti Prize.

If you are headed into Brown Medical School this fall and are looking for housing opportunities, please check with Janice\_Viticonte@Brown.edu. She is keeping track of apartments that 4<sup>th</sup> year med students are vacating and also some summer sublets.

Hope you have engaging plans this summer to advance yourselves personally, academically, or professionally. Do have fun and relax, however, and keep in touch. Anyone interested in visiting a physician in your home town, remember the Medicine in Action Program sponsors Brown MD alumni all around the country. (<http://bms.brown.edu/students/miap/>) Continue your professional development journey while at home.

This year, Deans Empkie, Brescia and Ip will not be working in the PLME/advising office for the summer. If you find that you need assistance, please contact Ms. Hilary Sweigart or Dean Phil Gruppuso. We will all return at the end of August in time for orientation. Have a great summer!

## women in medicine

Spring Leadership Event: “Sex, Power and Advancement. What have we learned? What are we learning?”

Janet Bickel, MA, Career Development and Executive Coach, Women & Infants Hospital, Auditoriums C&D - lower level  
May 3, 2006 at 4:30pm

# study space

## Sci-Li

May 30 - June 16

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-10:00pm

Saturday, 10:00am-9:00pm

Sunday, 1:00pm-9:00pm

## Sci-Li Study Rooms

Can be reserved for 4-hour blocks.

Accommodates 6-10 students.

To reserve contact [Ginine\\_Hefner@brown.edu](mailto:Ginine_Hefner@brown.edu)

## BMC

Early May - End of June

Room 202 and 291

Monday-Friday, evenings & overnight

Saturday-Sunday, 24-hour access

## Pembroke Cluster

May 17-July 1

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-2:00am

Weekends, 12:00pm-2:00am

## PLME Senate

Carly Seidman

Co-President

In the final update for 2005-2006, I would like to extend my thanks to all those students who contributed to the success of the PLME Senate this past year, as well as to Dean Ip and Hilary Sweigart for their invaluable advice and assistance! Over the last two semesters, we have hosted four exciting Whole Patient Programs, two informative and fun Whole Physician Programs, a Hurricane Relief Semiformal (in which we raised \$575 to donate to the American Red Cross), a well-attended late-night Gray's Anatomy Season One Marathon, and various study groups. We are looking forward to continuing to bring similar events to the PLME and Brown community in the year to come!

Our elections for the upcoming year were recently held. The new officers for 2006-2007 will be: Jenna Kahn and Carly Seidman (co-presidents), Bo Wang and Alma Guerrero (Whole Patient co-chairs), Larry Kwon (Whole Physician chair), Annie Wang and Angela Yang (Community Service co-chairs), Maya Barsky and David Fan (Social chairs), Wesley Wu (Medical School Liason), Geolani Dy and Elizabeth Rodriguez (Secretary), Albert Lin and Eric Mao (2007 representatives), Whitney Eng and Shilpa Gowda (2008 representa-

tives), Angela Hua, Julia Heneghan, and Rosalynn Vega (2009 representatives), and Thomas Kim and Brian Chang (co-treasurers).

Also of note, our final Whole Patient Program was held on April 19 and was a huge success! Thanks to Dr. Dean Roye and his patient, as well as coordinators Larry Kwon, Lawren Wellisch, and Bo Wang.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best of luck with finals and a wonderful, relaxing summer break! If you have any questions or ideas, feel free to email me at any time ([Carly\\_Seidman@brown.edu](mailto:Carly_Seidman@brown.edu)). Once again, thanks to everyone who helped make this a great year!

## Student Senate

Neel Shah

President

It's been a pleasure to act as President of the Medical Student Senate this year.

First, I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered their valuable time to help make Brown a better place. In particular, I want to recognize Ben Mathis MD '08 (Senate Social Committee Chair) for pulling together an amazing Ball & Socket,

Jessica Zerillo MD '09 and Isis Burgos MD '09 (Community Service Co-Chairs) for their tireless work on Breeze Against Wheeze, all the Curriculum Committee & Student Advising Task Force members that did great work on the academic side of our experience, and of course Jenn Kim MD'08 and Josh Honeyman MD '07 for making the Senate work.

Second, I want to editorialize on a subject that is sure to arise next year. While I firmly believe it is the Dean's prerogative to decide whether or not AOA has a place in his vision for the future of Brown Medical School, I currently do not see a way current students can be fairly inducted. After devoting much time and effort to understanding student, alumni, and administration concerns on both sides of the debate, my hope is that our community will find an alternative way to recognize excellence in the near term, while continuing to work on fostering excellence through needed progress in teaching, advising, and curricular reform.

Lastly, I'd like to wish you all the best this summer—to our fourth years as they go out into the world and do Brown proud, to our third years as they make critical decisions about their careers, to our second years as they study for Step 1, and to our first years as they indulge in that "final" summer of exploration. Good luck!

# SENIORS: Commencement Info

## Graduation Rehearsal

Saturday, May 27th at 11:00am  
First Unitarian Church

## Graduation Dinner

Saturday, May 27th at 6:00pm  
The Providence Marriott

## Class Photograph

Sunday, May 28th at 9:00am  
Marcus Aurelius Statue

## Medical Procession forms

Sunday, May 28th at 9:45am  
North side of Waterman Street, facing west, farthest from Faunce House running from behind the Graduate School Division back toward Thayer Street. You will enter the College Green through Faunce Arch.

## Medical Procession Steps Off

10:30am

## Medical Convocation

First Unitarian Church at 11:15am

## Post-Graduation Reception

Hope Club, Six Benevolent Street at 12:45pm

## A Word from the Dean

Continued from page one

Certainly, every state is different and the road ahead is far from clear. But with 11 percent of Rhode Island's residents without insurance, and with our teaching hospital partners providing 70 percent of the uncompensated care in the state, we cannot afford *not* to make creative solution-seeking a priority.

the pulse

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