

the pulse

The Brown Medical School Student Affairs Newsletter



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

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A Word from the Dean



What a pleasure it was for me to participate in my first Brown Medical School Opening Convocation a few weeks ago. The energy and enthusiasm among you was impressive and inspiring,

and I felt a great sense of promise and common endeavor. I was delighted to share with you my vision for the year, and look forward to new opportunities for such direct communication. You'll find photos from the event at <http://bms.brown.edu/slideshow/index.php?dir=convocation&index=0>. I also enjoyed welcoming our new third-years – twenty Brown-Dartmouth and advanced-standing transfer students – at a special reception on September 23. It was a great occasion for me to get to know them, and to give them all white coats bearing the Brown Med patch.

October is a busy month, and one of the highlights will be the Medical School's seventh annual Ceremony of Commitment to Medicine. I look forward to bestowing on each of you first-year medical students your own white coat to symbolize your entry into the medical profession.

With the Doctoring course up and running, Biomed Center renovations about to get under way, and more changes in the works, this fall is shaping up to be an exciting one. Enjoy the last days of warm weather and have a wonderful month.

Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso, MD

Associate Dean for Medical Education

Since starting in my role as Associate Dean I have begun a process that will take up much of my time in the next year, the redesign of Brown's medical curriculum. In meetings with Dean Adashi, other Associate Deans, several faculty members and a number of Department Chairs, the basic characteristics of our new educational plan have begun to take form. We want to create a curriculum that will offer leading edge educational excellence in content and in the teaching methods we use. We want to attract the very best applicants as the size of our medical school expands while offering a curriculum that our own PLME students deserve. We believe that tomorrow's physician must be a technology-savvy life-long learner, scientifically and clinically enlightened, one familiar with alternative and complementary healing traditions, patient- and service-centered and facile with the economic underpinnings of the U.S. healthcare system.

Certain components of the current curriculum will be a foundation for our new program. With the launch of Doctoring, we have in place an infrastructure for small-group, patient-centered and problem-based learning. The PLME will be the basis for us to continue in the tradition of MD matriculants with diverse backgrounds. The competency-based underpinnings of MD2000 will be used as a basis for new methods of assessment that promote learning.

The most distinctive characteristic of the new curriculum that we envision is flexibility. We hope to extend to the medical school the tradition of student-designed courses of study that has served the undergraduate college so well. To do this,

we will define educational tracks that will afford students flexibility in curriculum design aimed at a diverse mix of traditional and non-traditional career goals. In addition to the more recognizable courses of study that lead to careers in primary care, medical specialties and surgery and the surgical specialties, we will promote curriculum components aimed at careers including but not limited to biomedical ethics, medical administration, advocacy and activism, basic biomedical research and medical education.

In the coming months I will work with the MD Curriculum Committee and department chairs to form working groups that will focus on curriculum content, identification and formulation of educational tracks, assessment, application of information technology, and expansion of the role of Doctoring. Involvement of students in these working groups will be essential. I hope that you share my enthusiasm for what we are about to undertake, and that you will commit your time, energy and creativity to the development of our new curriculum.

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Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang
Director

Class of 2006: Residency applications are due! Most of the grades from fourth quarter have arrived so please order your transcripts from the Registrar's Office soon if you haven't already done so. If you would like to check on the grades that have recently come in, call Linda Bozzario at 863-2293. All of your letters of recommendation, pictures and supporting materials need to be in to Janice ASAP in order for her to scan them in. If you would like to schedule a practice interview, please call Donna or Mary at 863-2441 to make an appointment.

Class of 2008: The Brown/Dartmouth Orientation Weekend will be held in early November to welcome the Dartmouth students in the MD Class of 2008. Further information on this program will be sent to your boxes in the near future. Please be on the lookout!

Class of 2009: If you would like to put your editorial, writing or artistic skills to good use, think about working on the BUMS Digest for the incoming class of 2010! We need volunteers and would welcome your ideas and assistance. Please call Janice at 863-1641 if you would like to get involved.

Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase
Director

Attention Students: Please look for two handbooks soon to be arriving in your mailboxes: The Preclinical Handbook for the 1st- and 2nd-year students and the Clinical Handbook for the 3rd- and 4th-year students. These handbooks were prepared to help you navigate through your four years of medical school as well as update you about Brown's competency based curriculum as it applies to your preclinical and clinical years. You should

be receiving these handbooks in early October.

Two electives have been recently approved: The Cancer Action and Reflection Elective (CARE) was certified for beginning level credit in Ability VII: Social & Community Contexts of Health Care and Ability VIII: Moral Reasoning and Clinical Ethics. The AMSA Patient Advocacy Elective was certified for beginning level credit in Ability VII: Social & Community Contexts of Health Care.

The Curriculum Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Medical Curriculum Committee recently met with Dean Eli Adashi and Philip Gruppuso, the new Associate Dean of Medical Education, to discuss the Dean's new vision for an innovative, integrated curriculum. A white paper developed by Dean Gruppuso outlining this new vision will be issued shortly.

Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer
Director

Our annual Visiting Day for premedical post-baccalaureate students from Bryn Mawr College, Goucher College, and Columbia University is planned for Friday, October 14 from 10:30am to 4:45pm in the Crystal Room. The event provides prospective students with a first-hand look at Brown Medical School. Participants from previous years have spoken enthusiastically about the value of this day-long visit, appreciating particularly the opportunity to meet and speak with current students.

This year's program includes tours of several of the hospitals, as well as presentations and student and faculty panel discussions. Topics include Brown Med's learning environment, including highlights of the basic science curriculum and enhancements to the curriculum and the educational facilities; professional devel-

opment opportunities; and admissions requirements and financial aid options, among others.

If you are interested in participating in Post-Bac Visiting Day, either as a tour guide or more informally by joining our visiting students for lunch, please contact Amy Martin Webster (Amy_Martin@brown.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.

Financial Aid Refunds: If you have not yet received your refund check from the Bursar's Office for the first semester, please contact Filomena Zani (Filomena_Zani@brown.edu, 863-1142). At this point, all financial aid recipients who are eligible for a refund should have received their checks.

Personal Financial Planning Curriculum: Linda Gillette and I are working on the development of a series of workshops

student news

Isis Burgos '05 MD'09, has been awarded a Charles Carpenter Travel Award for her abstract presentation "Herpes and Protein Coded Bead Transport in the Squid Giant Axon" at the SACNAS National Conference in Denver, CO.

Monica Kumar MD'05, has been awarded a Charles Carpenter Travel Award for her abstract presentation "Comparison of Accidental and Nonaccidental Traumatic Head Injury in Children on Noncontrast Computed Tomography" at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum in Washington, DC.

Carla Chibwesh '00 MD'05, and Kartik Venkatesh '06, are among the 10 finalists for the Young Investigator Award Competition. The final phase took place on September 27 [outcome not available at time of publication of this newsletter] at the George Auditorium at RIH.

designed to address common financial concerns of medical students. The goal of these workshops is to provide students with practical knowledge necessary to make effective financial decisions. With excellent feedback from many medical students, we have identified four areas that we would like to address this year: understanding the importance of credit (including credit reports, credit scores, facts and fallacies); the basics of budgeting (estimating cash flow, handling budget shortfalls, financial tips to live frugally); tax issues; and the long-term cost of borrowing (e.g., calculating your loan payments vis-à-vis future income, financial impact of loan repayment programs). We will be in touch with you soon with more details. In the meantime, let me know if you have additional recommendations.

MD'06 Students: As you start your residency interviews, the Admissions and Financial Aid Office reminds you to save receipts for residency interviewing expenses, as these costs may be tax deductible if you itemize your deductions on your tax return. In addition, please remember to keep track of any moving expenses in the spring as they, too, may be deductible under certain circumstances. If you are not familiar with this tax terminology, don't worry! We will provide additional guidance in January and at our annual financial planning workshops next spring.

Lastly, if you are concerned about how to pay for residency interviews and relocation expenses, please be aware that several lenders offer loans to fourth-year medical students specifically for this purpose. Although these loans generally are less expensive options than credit cards, we urge you to borrow conservatively, as the interest rates are adjusted quarterly and have no rate cap.

Here are two lenders that we recommend: Key Bank's MedAchiever Residency Travel and Relocation Loan (www.key.com/educate/grad; 800-KEY-LEND)

and the Access Group's Medical Residency Loan (www.accessgroup.org; 800-282-1550). You can apply for these loans on line and receive a decision within 48 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gillette (Linda_Gillette@brown.edu).

Minority Medical Affairs Alicia Monroe, MD Associate Dean of Medicine

On September 12 the Office of Minority Medical Affairs and the Student National Medical Association co-sponsored "A Preview to Medical School" for first-year medical students. Phil Tetreault, learning specialist and director of academic enhancement and learning strategies, moderated an interactive dinner/discussion between first-, second-, third- and fourth-year students. Many useful tips were shared with members of the class of 2009 and it was a positive experience for all.

"Pass it Down" ceremony for second-year students: On September 14 the Office of Minority Medical Affairs and the Student National Medical Association co-sponsored the first ever "Pass it Down" ceremony for second-year students. The evening was a resounding success as a panel of third- and fourth-year students shared notes, materials and invaluable advice with the class of 2008.

Celebrating Diversity: The Office of Minority Medical Affairs, the Student National Medical Association and the Department of Family Medicine held "Celebrating Diversity" at the Faculty Club. This reception brought together medical students, faculty, residents and members of the Providence community who share a commitment to diversity within the health professions. The event was a good networking opportunity and many connections were made.

Law, Medicine and Ethics Elective: The

october calendar

- October 6
Histology Exam I

- October 6
Understanding the Health Care Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bi, and Transgender Youth
Location 5:30-7:00pm

- October 11
Physiology Exam I

- October 11
Bioethics Interest Group
6:00pm

- October 13
Opportunities in Family Medicine
Eddy Auditorium, 5:30-7:00pm

- October 14
Post-bac Visiting Day
Crystal Room and Purple Palace

- October 16
PLME Senate Meeting
Fauce House, Rm 201 5:00pm

- October 26
Anatomy Exam II

- October 26
PLME Financial Aid Briefing
BMC 202 4:00 – 5:00 pm

- October 27
Office of Women in Medicine
Presentation on Leadership
Eddy Auditorium, 5:30-6:45pm

- October 29
Northeast Conference on Healthcare
Student Wellness
BMC 202, 9:30-5:00pm

- October 30
PLME Senate Meeting
Fauce House, Rm 201 5:00pm

opportunities

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology's ACNP/Pfizer Minority Summer Fellow Program. This grant is made available to promote and enhance the interest of minority graduate students and residents in careers in psychopharmacology and the neurosciences. This grant provides enough support to allow one student to carry out a research project for six to eight weeks in the summer. Total grant is \$15,000. To apply go to www.acnp.org. Application deadline: December 30, 2005.

American Association for the History of Medicine Osler Medal Essay Contest. The writer of the winning essay will be invited to attend the 2006 AAHM meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Reasonable travel expenses will be provided. Complete contest information available at www.histmed.org/awards. Application deadline: January 15, 2006.

FIC/Ellison Overseas Fellowship Program, an exciting clinical research training experience sponsored by the NIH's Fogarty International Center. The program offers a one-year clinical research training experience to qualified students. This is an opportunity for highly motivated individuals to experience mentored research training at top-ranked NIH funded research centers in a diverse group of countries. To learn more go to www.aamc.org/overseas_fellowship. Application deadline: December 28, 2005.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology's Annual Meeting is being held in Miami Beach, Florida from March 3-7, 2006. The Chrysalis Project is designed to introduce medical students to existing networks of allergist/immunologists and explores various career paths. Accepted applicants will be paired with a Fellow-in-Training mentor who will serve as a role model and guide. Accepted applicants will receive travel arrangements and accommodations. To learn more go to www.aaaai.org. Applications are due November 15, 2005.

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) is pleased to hold a free informational program for medical students - Understanding PM&R: A Medical Student's Guide to

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To learn more visit www.aapmr.org

HHMI-NIH Research Scholars Program. If you are interested in biomedical research, now is the time to apply for one of the most exceptional research training programs available to medical students. This joint venture between the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides an opportunity for US medical students to spend a year doing basic, translational, or applied biomedical research at the NIH. Annual salary of \$25,000 plus free health insurance and other benefits. Applications available online at www.hhmi.org/cloister/pos. The application deadline is January 10, 2006.

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Fogarty International Center (FIC), offers a one-year clinical research training experience for graduate level U.S. students in the health professions. For students with a strong interest in a career in international health activities and/or clinical research. Applications are due: December 28, 2005. To access the application and to learn more, please visit: www.aamc.org/overseas_fellowship.

American Diabetes Association Medical Scholars Award. Place students interested in patient-oriented research in a suitable laboratory for a year, create access to a group of clinical scientists and peers who share common research interests, expose the student to a relevant clinical experience, and to support the student with a stipend. The Medical Scholars Program provides support for 12 months in a clinical or basic science research environment. The award will be in the amount of \$30,000 per year, with a maximum of \$20,000 for the salary stipend. The remaining \$10,000 of the award is to be allocated to tuition and/or lab materials and supplies, as well as grant-related travel. Deadline is January 15th. To apply contact Angela Christopher, ref@rheumatology.org, 404-633-3777 or www.refawards.org.

Law, Medicine and Ethics elective is a new course which is co-hosted by the Roger Williams Law School. Two seminars will take place in the Arnold Lab fourth-floor conference room on September 21 and October 19 and the final class will be held on November 9 at Roger Williams Law School in Bristol. The course will provide a forum for students to explore social, cultural, economic, systemic, legal and ethical issues and how they contribute to disparities in health and health care.

Save the Date – Links 11th Annual Walk-A-Thon: On Saturday, October 1, 2005 the Links, Incorporated (a civil organization dedicated to promoting health and wellness, educational achievement and social justice for all) will host a Walk-A-Thon beginning at 9:00am at Butler Hospital, 345 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence. Proceeds will go towards purchasing blankets for the homeless.

Professional Development

Monika Bolino
Coordinator

Funding Available for Community-Based Projects: The Veronica Petersen, MD and Dr. Robert A. Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund provides large and small grants (up to \$3000) to medical students conducting innovative projects designed to have a positive impact on individuals, families, and communities. Projects should foster professional development and an enriched educational experience, and — just as importantly — enable students to give back to the community at large. Such socially relevant projects embody Brown Medical School's mission of producing physicians and scientists who view medicine as a human service profession, as well as its tradition of student activism. Guidelines, application forms, and a list of previous recipients are available online at (bms.brown.edu/omma/petersen.htm) and at the Office of Professional Development

(for more information, contact Monika Bolino at 401-863-2881, Monika_Bolino@brown.edu). Fall application deadline: Friday, November 4 (for projects implemented between December 2005 and May 2006).

Opportunity for students interested in health disparities and cultural competency education: The Committee on Multiculturalism seeks new student members from all four classes (meetings are held once a month on a Tuesday evening). The committee, comprised of faculty and students, is presently planning a workshop for medical students and the Brown Med community concerning professionalism and ethics in the classroom and clinics, and on the wards. For more information, contact Monika Bolino.

Book Forum - Mountains Beyond Mountains: All medical students, PLME students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in the Professional Development Annual Book Forum (Thursday, November 10, 6:00pm – 8:30pm, Andrews Dining Hall). Our selection this year is Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder. RSVPs are requested. Complimentary copies are available to medical students and PLME students while supplies last; stop by the Office of Professional Development to pick up a copy or contact Monika_Bolino@brown.edu (401-863-2881).

Center for Biomedical Ethics

Donna Goodnow, Coordinator
Tom Bledsoe, MD, Interim Director

You arrive at the clinic, a low building set back off the road in need of a paint job, 15 minutes before the start of your session. A number of tired, moderately ill-appearing patients are milling about outside, some sitting on the ground or on a few folding chairs or stools. Many look like they've been there waiting all day (some look like they've been waiting

for medical care for months!). One patient appears to have labored breathing, another is muttering to herself under her breath. Several look hopefully in your direction as they see you arrive, trying to make eye contact.

An away elective in Bangladesh or Nepal or sub-Saharan Africa? No, you are about to start your first day volunteering at Rhode Island Free Clinic, one of a few sites in Rhode Island where free medical care is available. Reliable estimates of the extent of the uninsured or under-insured problem in Rhode Island put the number of those without adequate medical coverage at about 120,000 individuals. Some of these seek care at Rhode Island Free Clinic.

On September 22, the Ocean State Ethics Network (OSEN) sponsored a forum entitled No Place Left To Go: Ethical Dilemmas in R.I. Free Clinic. (The network is a consortium of members of institutional ethics committees from health-related institutions from Greater Providence and is sponsored in part by the Center for Biomedical Ethics at BMS. Medical students and PLMEs are welcome to participate in OSEN events.) In this session, the OSEN director Jay Baruch, M.D. opened the discussion with a dramatic case of a patient he was unsuccessful at resuscitating in

Office of Women in Medicine

Please join us! The office will sponsor a presentation on Leadership, October 27, 2005, 5:30 pm – 6:45pm in Eddy Auditorium with special guest speaker Stephanie Spangler '73 MD'76. Dr. Spangler is a Brown alumna and is currently the Deputy Provost for Biomedical and Health Affairs at Yale University. An announcement and registration form will be sent out. More information is available at the OWM website: <http://bms.brown.edu/wim/announcement.html>.

the Memorial Hospital emergency room, a patient who had delayed seeking care because of a lack of insurance. You may be surprised to learn that there are ethical issues involved in providing free care, but the ethical issues facing the clinic are quite complex. For instance, the clinic routinely turns away at least as many new patients as they accept because of inadequate space, staff or other resources. Which patients should the clinic accept? How does the clinic decide which patients to accept? What are the obligations the clinic takes on when accepting a new patient?

Justice is one of the four basic principles of Bioethics according to classical teaching. Have you thought about how you will apply the principle of justice to your practice of medicine? Will you decide to actively ignore the issue as it applies to medical care (society's problem, but not my problem)? Will you passively ignore it (I work hard taking care of my patients, and that's the best I can do)? Will you become politically active? Will you design your professional (and personal) life to allow for some "charity" work? A separate question has to do with your institution. Does Brown Medical School have a responsibility to speak up to address social problems in the medical realm?

If these questions are of interest to you, please plan to attend the organizational meeting of a Bioethics interest group on Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00pm (location to be announced). The Bioethics Interest Group will explore interesting and complicated ethical questions in the practice of medicine. Possible activities could include a discussion group, inviting outside speakers to campus, film screenings, and perhaps even the development of a "consult service" for medical students who find themselves caught in the midst of an ethical dilemma during their clinical rotations. If interested, please contact Donna Goodnow in the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Donna_Goodnow@brown.edu or 863-3969.

Next event: If you think you understand what we mean by "informed consent" and the principle of autonomy, keep an eye out for more details on an upcoming talk in early November by William LaFleur from the University of Pennsylvania on "Dissent on Informed Consent: Socio-Philosophical Aspects of Japanese Efforts to Forge an Alternative Path in Bioethics."

PLME

Julianne Ip, MD, Associate Dean
Hilary Sweigart, PLME Manager

FRESHMEN — The second Whole Patient Program will be scheduled for October, either the 19th or 26th. More details will be sent to you shortly. All freshmen are expected to attend this program. Check out the Orientation Picnic and Convocation snapshots at <http://bms.brown.edu/plme/slideshow.php> — Send the link to your family!

KUDOS to Carla Chibwesa '00 MD'05, and Kartik Venkatesh '06 (Clinical Science Category), who are among the 10 finalists for the Young Investigator Award Competition. The final phase took place on September 27 [outcome not available at time of publication of this newsletter] at the George Auditorium at RIH when slide show versions of their projects were

scored by a panel of 15 judges. Good luck to both of you!

REMINDER — Make an appointment to meet with your advising dean to discuss courses for next semester. Preregistration for Semester II is October 23–November 4.

PLME Senate

Zach Gordon '07
Co-President

I hope everyone is settled in by now and ready for some great events this semester. Over the past month, the Senate has been hard at work planning the next Whole Patient Program, a Katrina Relief Semi-Formal, as well as study groups for the major science courses.

As the PLME class of 2009 can tell you, our first Whole Patient Program was a great success. In September we had the pleasure of listening to Dr. Jeffrey Borkan speak about the doctor-patient relationship. His presentation on factitious disorders was both entertaining and informative. Our next Whole Patient Program will take place later this month. You will be notified as soon as the date has been finalized.

The Katrina Relief Semi-Formal will be

Financial Aid Briefing for PLME and EIP Seniors

Are you interested in learning about the financial aid process for medical school? If so, mark your calendars for our annual financial aid briefing on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in the BioMed Center (Room 202).

We will review the application process, funding options, personal finance tips and long-range issues, including sample repayment scenarios and the latest physician compensation data. Medical school financial aid consists of more than just student loans, so come and learn about the various options. Parents and partners are welcome to join you. Refreshments will be served.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Friday, October 21, 2005 at 863-9249 or email Amy Martin at Amy_Martin@brown.edu. We look forward to seeing you!

call for tour guides

held Friday, November 11. It should be a fun opportunity to meet fellow PLME students, and more importantly, to get involved in the relief effort for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. All proceeds will be donated directly to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina fund. Hope to see you all there!

We have also been planning study sessions for students of the major science courses such as CH33, BI20, BI47, BN1, PH3, etc. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome so bring your friends. Your respective class representatives will be contacting you shortly with additional information regarding logistics.

Lastly, the Senate has recently designed exciting new PLME apparel. Very shortly, we will be selling PLME hooded sweat-shirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, and hats. Multiple design options will be available, including the much anticipated "PLME Mom" and "PLME Dad" editions.

Keep in mind that new ideas for PLME events are always welcome. If you have any comments or concerns please feel free to discuss them with Carly or myself. The next two meetings will be held on October 16 and October 30 in Faunce House, Room 201 at 5:00pm. All are welcome.

Student Senate

Neel Shah MD'08

President

The academic year is now well underway and there have been many developments since Convocation. As many of you are well aware, BMS has been very much involved in our community's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster—we are currently hosting students from the affected areas in the Division, and many of our own students are organizing fund raisers and relief efforts. If you would like to learn more about medical student efforts, please contact Senate Community

Tour Guides Needed!

The Admissions and Financial Aid Office is still looking to hire student guides to lead groups of applicants on tours of the hospitals. If you are interested, please contact Amy Martin Webster (Amy_Martin@brown.edu) for more details.

Service Chairs Isis Burgos MD'09 and Jessica Zerillo MD'09. Also keep a look out for a week-long program of Katrina-related educational events and fund-raising activities that will be organized by the University later this month.

In other news, you will start to see the BioMed Center undergoing much-anticipated renovations this month. According to Facilities Director Peter Holden, "With photos, graphics, words and phrases, we will pay respect to our history, we will praise the present and we will image the future for the BMS." Construction is currently slated to be completed in November.

MD'06: Class Advocate Grant Chu brought to the Senate's attention that advisors in certain clinical departments are overloaded and students are having difficulty obtaining letters. If you have experienced this, please let Grant know—he, and your other advocates are working to learn the extent of this issue so that we may accurately address it.

MD'09: As you know, your class representatives were recently elected at the September Senate general body meeting. Many of you have already brought to their attention the extraordinary time demands of the new Doctoring course and the resulting difficulties you have encountered. Please continue to voice these and any other concerns to Brad Weinberg, Saira Alimohamed, and Rajeev Chaudhry so that we may work to make things as manageable as possible.

My hope for this year was to increase the

arm of the Medical Student Senate in advocating for the changes students would like to see take place. I'm excited to report that student representatives will be meeting with President Simmons on October 11, the Brown Medical Alumni Association on October 15-16, and Medical School Corporation Committee on October 22. I look forward to updating you on our progress in November.

Medical Students for Choice

Misa Perron-Burdick MD'08

An estimated 43% of women will have at least one abortion by the time they are 45 years old*. Although it is one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures in the United States, abortion continues to be surrounded by controversy and stigma within the medical community.

Medical Student for Choice (MSFC) is dedicated to increasing awareness and providing our fellow students with educational opportunities related to reproductive health. We strive to create an open-minded environment in which future physicians can safely explore their own ideas and beliefs. MSFC also collaborates with community organization to ensure that women have access to the full range of reproductive healthcare choices.

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2009 to participate in many of the events planned for this year. MSFC will be sponsoring ClinicView, a shadowing experience in which medical students

program highlights

can follow a patient during the abortion process - counseling, procedure, and aftercare. Although Brown medical students are fortunate to have abortion covered in the didactic curriculum, for many this will be the only opportunity for a clinical experience.

Keep your eyes peeled for a myriad of lectures, video screenings, and workshops throughout the year. This fall we will be hosting "Values Clarification Luncheon" for students to discuss their own views on abortion and emergency contraception. We have a contraception lecture planned for February - just in time for Valentine's Day - and spring will bring the Papaya Workshop.

If you are interested in learning more about Medical Students for Choice, please go to www.ms4c.org or contact me at misapb@brown.edu. If you are a medical student or resident interested in becoming an abortion provider, please contact me for additional resources and training opportunities.

* Henshaw SK, Unintended pregnancy in the United States, Family Planning Perspectives 1998, 30 (1):24-29 & 46

Highlights from the Medicine in Action Program

"Dr. "B" showed me a day in a life of a surgeon. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience....We began the day doing rounds and visiting his patients. We concluded the day in the OR. I was allowed to "scrub in" and to witness the procedure. It was awesome!"

"Dr. "S" first contacted me by phone to share her background. I learned more about her practice when I visited, and she offered great practical advice and resources to learn more about setting up and running a private practice. [She] had me go in before her to see the patient. I took a brief HPI and presented this to her when she came in to see the patient. This was the most valuable shadowing experience I've had, especially because it involved my practicing history-taking skills."

"I shadowed Dr. "V" as well as third-year med students and a resident. I stayed primarily in the nursery. I got to see newborns, learn the discharge procedure and watch interactions with moms and family members. I went with a resident to the lunch-time lecture and she showed me around the NICU. It was a fantastic day and I learned a lot!"

"I had the opportunity to see two thoracic surgeries. The first was a thoroscopy and the second was a very complicated surgery involving the removal of an entire lung and part of the heart. It was amazing! Dr. "N" and his resident were very good about defining the anatomy that I was seeing and explaining the process. They were friendly and humorous, too. All in all, I had a great day."

To learn more about getting involved with the Medicine in Action Program visit <http://bms.brown.edu/miap>.

the pulse

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