Congratulations to the Class of 2010! This group has special significance for me. This is the first group of students who went through the redesigned preclinical curriculum that was launched in 2006. I’m appreciative of the constructive support and encouragement that so many of them provided. This is also the first class to include graduates of the Scholarly Concentrations Program, an undertaking that was made possible by the enthusiasm that so many of these students had for that new program.

The accomplishments of this group bode well for the future of our school. They include students who sought and attained highly desirable post-graduate positions. As part of and in addition to participation in the SC Program, many completed extraordinary research and service projects. I found they’re enthusiasm, creativity and innate intelligence humbling.

A few words about summer activities in the medical school: The planned move into the new med school building in August of 2011 means developing a budget this fall that will precipitate the move. Central to developing this budget is planning for the academies and the new model for advising that they will bring. We will also be planning for a modest increase in class size. Planning for the new clinical curriculum will continue over the summer. Finally, I hope we will soon move forward on planning for a new Medical Humanities program. A group has been meeting for some six months to develop a program that will expand on the existing medical humanities concentration. Students will be involved in all of these planning activities.

For the more than fifty rising second year students who will soon start their summer assistantship activities, I hope you have a gratifying and productive summer. The same goes for the rest of the this class. To the (relatively) new third and fourth year students, I hope your rotations and career exploration go well. To all of you, have a great summer!
Thank you to every student who participated in the 2009-10 admissions season!

The admissions season officially ended with a terrific Second Look Program for prospective students on April 30-May 1, 2010. We had glorious weather, and as usual, Melissa Whiteley planned a marvelous event. Thanks to Dean Wing for his persuasive speech on why Brown is an emerging leader in medical education. Susan Cu-Uvin provided a fantastic and inspiring overview of Brown’s Global Health Initiative. Tours of Miriam led by Lauren De Leon and Erich Kiehl were surprised by an impromptu welcome speech given by Dr. Fred Schiffman, while Andy Van Wieren and Ala Kreczko led a group to RI Free Clinic and the Women & Infants’ NICU. Admissions couldn’t have staged such a complicated, interesting event without the many students who participated in some aspect of the program and attended the social events. Thanks in particular to Michelle Gosselin, Craig Otteni, Jessica Feldman, Matt Deren, and the fabulous anatomy demonstrators—Tom Anderson, Erin Kunkel, Ben Kowitt, Avani Sinha, Sando Baysah, and Mike Desimone! Thanks to Pojen Deng, Andy Brunner, and Sarah Schmidhofer for discussing your scholarly concentrations with humor and enthusiasm. Many thanks to Marina Macnamara and Zak Drapkin for representing the Doctoring course with Drs. Taylor and Sutton. Special thanks go to Emily Green, who came in on a Saturday to present on Scholarly Concentrations and Advising. As always, thanks to Dr. Phil Gruppuso for your eloquence and commitment to our medical education program!

The admissions staff wishes good-bye to our graduating admissions committee members: Mike Gart, Chuck Mitchell, and Lauren De Leon. They did a stellar job in representing the diversity of our medical student body while evaluating candidates to follow in their footsteps at AMS.

As of June 2, our committee members interviewed 247 prospective students. We’re still in the process of finalizing the class, but we currently have 42 standard admits, 9 postbacs, and 3 EIP students in addition to the 47 PLMEs in the MD Class of 2010.

The 2010-2011 admissions season officially begins on June 30 with our first download of AMCAS applicant information! We look forward to admitting the first class to enter the new medical education building in the Jewelry District.
Office of Minority & Medical Affairs (OMMA)
Zoila Quezada, Manager

The Dr. Veronica Petersen ’55 and Dr. Robert A. Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund 2011 award cycle applications will be available in September, 2010. Stay tuned for future announcements.

On Monday, May 24th William Perez was awarded $10,000 towards his work in Haiti, as a finalist for the Do Something Awards at Apollo Theater in Harlem. In two months, he’ll be on his way to LA along with the other four finalists for the VH1 Do Something Award Show broadcasted live for the $100,000 grand prize on July 19th. This year, the winner is voted on by America! To learn more about the award and how you can vote, please visit:


Thank you so much for your support and please spread the word! To learn more about the work that he is doing, check out willinhaiti.org

Brown Medical Alumni Association (BMMA)
Bethany Solomon, Director
Annual Giving & Alumni Programs

Congratulations to the MD Class of 2010. As the newest members of the Brown Medical Alumni Association, the MD Class of 2010 can now take the “med” with them, forever. A new e-forwarding system is now available for interested alumni. First, you must be registered with the Alumni Directory (http://med.brown.edu/alumni/directory.html). Then click on the e-forwarding link in the left margin to choose your very own @med.brown.edu life-long forwarding email. Details of the system’s requirements are available on the e-forwarding homepage. Note: If you do not have your student ID information, please contact the Alumni Help Desk at 401-863-9662 for log in information.

Rhode Island AHEC Program

The RI AHEC Program Office is proud to sponsor six Alpert Medical School students and one Brown undergraduate student in their summer research projects. Below are details about each proposal from the various students, each of which helps advance the RI AHEC mission.

The project of Andrea Batchelor M13 is entitled: “Advocating for Children with Special Needs: Improving Resources for Families”. Andrea will be working to learn and participate in all aspects of diagnosing, caring for, advocating for, and learning from children with disabilities and their families. Andrea will work mostly with children diagnosed with autism or intellectual disabilities. Andrea’s work in this project is part of her long term goal to become a pediatric neurologist.

International Exchange Programs

Have you been considering doing an elective abroad? Check out AMS international exchange programs. We’ve just added Tokyo Women’s Medical University, and are negotiating a program with the University of Bologna. Visit http://med.brown.edu/research/international.html for more information or contact Dean Julianne Ip at Julianne_ip@Brown.edu.

Project Opportunity

The Rhode Island Medical Women’s Association (RIMWA) is interested in finding a student who would like to work on an independent project about the “History of Women in Medicine in Rhode Island.” For additional information, please contact Dr. Elaine B. Fain, elainedoc@aol.com.

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Alison Brock M13 will be doing scholarly research in preparation for her contribution to the writing of a book chapter to be published in Poverty, Health and Law: Reading and Cases for Medical-Legal Partnerships, edited by Elizabeth Tobin Tyler, Director of Public Service and Community Partnerships at Roger Williams University School of Law. Working under the mentorship of Dr. Jody Rich, Alison will work on contributing to the chapter discussing the need for collaborative medical-legal advocacy on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. This project coincides with Alison’s long term goal of working as a NHSC physician in an underserved area such as a correctional facility or a community health center with the skills and knowledge of a medical-legal advocate.

Jessica Hart M13 has entitled her project: “Research and Advocacy to Promote the Actualization of Social, Economic, and Cultural Human Rights in Rhode Island”. She plans to collect data via surveys to answer some research questions about the awareness of Rhode Islanders about social, economic, and cultural rights and the impact of possible health related rights abuses. Jessica intends to use sound research to provide a basis for advocacy for change in health related issues. This proposal is part of a four year plan to promote her Advocacy Plan based on scholarly research during her clerkships and throughout her medical career.

Reshma Ramachandran’s M13 interest in patient safety and global health, as shown by her involvement in the Institute for Health Care Improvement and the pre-clinical elective, Health Care in America, continues in her project entitled: “Global and Domestic Patient Safety and Quality Improvement – Integration and Implementation”. Reshma will also be taking courses on Global Health Policy at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Reshma’s work this summer is part of her plan to learn about, teach and advocate for patient safety throughout the next three years of medical school.

Ariana Raufi’s M13 project is entitled: “Obesity Prevention and Control in the Pediatric Setting”. She will be working with the patients at the Thundermist Health Center in Woonsocket, RI and their families. The summer work will involve interviews with children and their families about eating habits and lifestyle choices. Part of the project will be the development of a curriculum for physicians in the area of patient interviews regarding nutrition and exercise. This will coincide with work on the revision of the electronic medical record system at Thundermist Health Center to help improve the effectiveness of physician counseling in obesity prevention.

The title of Angela Yang’s M13 project is “Beyond pain and meds: stories of chronic pain patients on long-term opioids”. Angela plans to work with Primary Care physicians affiliated with Memorial Hospital to select and interview 20 chronic pain patients. Audio recordings of the interviews will be made where the patients will be asked to relate their stories of chronic pain and their use of opioids for pain relief. The patients will fill out a questionnaire to provide information about medical history, substance abuse, pain and depression. Primary Care physicians will also be interviewed for their perspective on their patients’ progress. The long term goal for this project is to provide medical students and physicians with the tools to success in physician-patient communication and in caring for chronic pain patients.

Rima Shah is a rising senior at Brown University who is very enthusiastic about her proposal to work with children in day care centers and preschools to promote hand and dental hygiene through periodic workshops. The workshops will teach proper hand washing techniques and good dental hygiene through games and arts and crafts. Rima plans to put together ‘Toolkits’ that she will utilize not only in her visits with the children but also will pass them on to others in the RI AHEC Network who will teach the same workshops to many more children.

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“Health Care in America”, the preclinical elective medical school course created by RI AHEC Director Dr. Frazzano, Associate Director Robert Trachtenberg and 4 medical students was a great success this past year. The course will be offered again starting in the fall semester. The content of the course for the year-long course will be slightly different from the first year; so as to rotate the 2 years of course content to avoid repetition.

The RI AHEC Network would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Advisory Committee member, Mary Zammarelli, the Director of Library Services at St. Joseph Health Services of RI.

The Rhode Island AHEC Network includes 3 community centers and the Program Office at the Alpert Medical School. The Northern RI AHEC located in Woonsocket, the Central RI AHEC at St. Joseph Health Services of RI in Providence, and Southern RI AHEC in Kingston at the University Of Rhode Island College Of Nursing. The following includes some of their current initiatives. Northern RI AHEC is very active with several programs: partnering with the RI Geriatric Education center at URI on interdisciplinary trainings and with Landmark Hospital on cultural competency trainings for their staff; working with St Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island to provide classes on Basic Spanish for Health Professionals; discussing with CCRI re developing a certificate program on HIV prevention; partnering with St Antoine Residence in Smithfield in their CNA program; and supporting 6-7 summer interns in various summer projects. Central RI AHEC at St Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island is working with the Rhode Island Department of Health on developing 2 certificate programs: Diabetic Outreach and Reducing Tobacco Use. At Southern RI AHEC at the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing, the work on the program, ‘Pathways to Nursing’ is continuing. This program is designed to actively recruit and support 15 students during their nursing training.

AMA Chapter

Ina Soh MD’13

In April, our members participated in the “Miles for Healthier Lifestyles” bike tour that ran from Boston, MA to Buffalo, NY by biking one of the legs starting in Providence, RI and ending in Mystic, CT. Dean Wing of Medicine and Biological Sciences, who has been commuting by bike since he was a medical student himself, joined our members in promoting healthier lifestyles. Members of our community were invited to join our bikers in a send-off bike tour around the Brown campus, which successfully raised awareness about using biking as a fun way to exercise and as a way to ward off the health risks associated with inactivity.

Also in April, our AMA chapter participated in a Bike Helmet Distribution Day put on by the Rhode Island Medical Society as a way of promoting safe bike habits in young children of the local Providence community.

From the Sciences Library

Tovah Reis
Head, Medical and Sciences Information Services

The following is a list of online medical resources available through the Brown network via mobile devices:

- AccessMedicine - online access to medical textbooks and the Lange Educational Library.
- Clinical Pharmacology - resource for drug information and medication management.
- Medical Letter - peer reviewed, non-profit publications featuring critical appraisals of new drugs, comparative reviews of older drugs and new non-drug treatments or new diagnostic aids.
- MD Consult - access to the full text of medical textbooks, journals, clinical guidelines and drug information.
- New England Journal of Medicine - if you have an individual subscription
- PsychiatryOnline - Brown students and faculty can register for a free personal account to access DSM-IV-TR, ICD-9-CM, the DSM symptom index, APA Practice Guideline Quick Reference and more.
- PubMed - index to medical literature back to 1950.
UpToDate - can use only on campus where there is access to the wireless network.

For additional information about which device(s) can be used with each resource go to Medical Connection and click on Mobile Access:
http://library.brown.edu/gateway/medcon/

Good-bye, Farewell, Shalom, auf Wiedersehen, Arrividerci, Beannachd Leibh, Adios, Adieu
This will be my last contribution to the PULSE as I will be retiring, on June 30. It has been a pleasure serving the medical students for almost 19 years. We went from print journals and textbooks in the SciLi to almost a completely online collection, accessible from on and off-campus, 24/7. Added to the collection databases such as DynaMed, Clinical Pharmacology and Psychiatry Online. We tried to provide appropriate space in the SciLi for medical students - not always successfully, but not for lack of trying.

Also retiring on June 30 is Janet Crager, Scholarly Resources Librarian for medicine, who has been working with medical students for 30 years. She has provided one-on-one consultations, presentations and workshops on library resources and services, co-taught with her colleague Frank Kellerman the library section during the Community Health Core Clerkship and has been a steward of the collection.

Starting July 1, if you need library assistance, please contact Frank.Kellerman@brown.edu who can also be reached at 3-6324.

Wishing you all the best and hope to come visit you in the new medical education building.