

Spring 2018



# Upstate Medical University

*To improve the health of the  
communities we serve through  
education, biomedical research and  
health care.*



## Curriculum Office



### Letter from Dean Ko

***The Curriculum Office is responsible for managing, coordinating and evaluating the Medical School curriculum. In addition, we provide support to the students, faculty, and administration.***

Commencement is a time of year that is bittersweet for the Curriculum Office. We say goodbye to our graduates (Congrats to the Class of 2018!), as well as welcome in new students and prepare them to enter a new phase of their education. A new group of MS3 students, just having completed their USMLE Step 1, will enter into the world of clerkships. Each year, we do our best to prepare our students for the exciting, and sometimes daunting task of entering clerkships. For most students, it's the reason they entered medical school: to directly take care of patients, interact with families and communities, and to make a difference in the health of others.

I would like to formally introduce and welcome Dr. Matthew Mason, the newly appointed Assistant Dean for the Clinical Science. Dr. Mason is a graduate of SUNY Upstate Medical school. He returned to Upstate as faculty several years ago after completing his training and fellowship in Pediatric Urology. In his new role, he is already diligently meeting with different stakeholders; including students from both campuses (Binghamton and Syracuse) as well as clerkship leadership in each of the disciplines. A focus for him, as well as the Curriculum Office, is to address the specific areas of needed improvement that were identified through the extensive Independent Student Analysis (ISA) that was released by the students this Spring. As part of our preparation for the LCME and self-study processes, this summer and into

the new academic year, our Administration and staff will focus on tackling many of the issues brought up in the ISA; such as faculty development of our residents and attendings, giving better feedback to our learners through their education, and improving some of the infrastructure and student spaces at the various hospital locations.

An additional topic that my staff and I have been discussing, is continuing to find ways to better communicate what is going on with the curriculum with the students, staff, and faculty. One of the ways we do this is through the newsletter. With the LCME self-study process, and the work of the Curriculum Committee and its various sub-committees, there are many process, policy, and curriculum changes; all of which will benefit our students and their Upstate education.

You will be hearing a lot from me, the Curriculum Office, the Evaluation Office, and the Dean's Office this upcoming year. We look forward to making 2018-19 a great year for everyone!

Dr. Paul Ko  
Associate Dean for  
Undergraduate Medical  
Education



For questions regarding this publication, please contact:  
Susan (Anderssu@upstate.edu)

Visit Our Website  
<http://www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/>

# Phase 1

## Spring 2018

The MS2's have wrapped up their year, having taken their shelf exams and are preparing for Step 1 (if they haven't taken it already!). Congratulations to the Class of 2020 for their efforts! We wish you nothing but luck in your Clerkships and encourage you to keep your basic science knowledge base fresh, as you begin to tackle patient cases. The Class of 2020 is the first to complete both years of the UP (Unified Pre-clerkship Curriculum).

The MS1's are wrapping up their own year with MS1 Unit 8 - Endocrine, Reproductive. Congratulations to the Class of 2021 for all of your hard work this year. For the MS1's, this is a time to reflect on what you have learned, how you have learned it and how to best prepare yourself for your MS2 year. Remember to reach out to University support for study or wellness concerns – we have many resources. We continue to find opportunities for more clinical relevance in Phase 1, as it is one of our most important goals and continue to celebrate the successes and learn from the feedback from our students and faculty.

Units continue to complete Annual Reviews with a new process that includes peer review. This process has led to increased awareness of content and integration across the first 2 years. For example, the MS1 nervous system unit is reviewing the content for the nervous system unit in the second year. We have heard from Unit Directors with plans for active learning next year and are excited as this style of learning helps students solidify the content they have learned. Phases 1 and 2 continue to work on integrated content across all years of the curriculum with joint meetings, curriculum inventory checks and "Backpacks". With Curriculum Backpacks, students should expect to see topics covered in the first two years coming up again and enhanced in the MS3 year.

A reminder that there will be a student vote at the end of both years for the following awards. These are modeled after important goals in the UP curriculum.

**• Innovation • Clinical Relevance • Basic Science and Clinician Director Collaboration • Organization**



A background image of vibrant green leaves on a branch, with some leaves in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a fresh and natural feel.

## What's New in Phase 2

As the academic year comes to an end, we congratulate our graduating 4th-year medical students and wish you all the best of luck!

We would like to welcome the new MS3 students to the phase 2 curriculum! We will be having MS3 orientation for the Syracuse campus students on May 21st-25th. MS3 orientation for Binghamton campus students will start on June 4th. During orientation we will go over the experience of MS3 year and how to adjust from the lecture hall to clinical rotations. This should be a helpful session for the students and will include peer sessions with advice from students who have already been through MS3 year! The students will have several sessions that will allow them to complete their required training for patient care, including ACLS training. This year, we will have new focus on the expanded scope of practice-based learning improvement (PBLI) within the clerkships as well.

Rising MS3 students, congratulations on finishing clerkships! We wish you luck on your clinical skills exams and the 4th year of medical school! We at phase 2 and the curriculum office are still here for you throughout the 4th year!



The AΩA junior elections were held on April 30, 2018.  
Please join me in congratulating the newly elected members from the Class of 2019:

Steven Aziz	Daniel Nguyen
Jamie Cohen	Jenny Schreiber
Daniel Farrell	Kevin Sexton
John Fountain	Sandeep Sikerwar
Amanda Gemmiti	Philip Skummer
Nicole Lifson	Brendon Verhave
Lauren MacNeill (B)	Kathryn Zuchowski

### AΩA Visiting Professor

John H. Sampson, MD, PhD, MBA, MHSc, was this year's AΩA Visiting Professor. He visited Upstate on March 27-28, 2018.

Dr. Sampson is the Chair for the Department of Neurosurgery at Duke University Medical Center. He is Professor of Neurosurgery, Immunology, Radiation Oncology, Pathology, and Orthopedic Surgery, as well as a member of the Duke Cancer Institute. Dr. Sampson presented the AOA lectureship from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, in the Medical Alumni Auditorium. His presentation was titled “Turning Knowledge into Money – Entrepreneurship in Medicine.” He also presented at Grand Rounds and moderated teaching sessions for students and residents in the Department of Neurology during his visit to Upstate.

All of his presentations were very well received, and it was great to have him at Upstate. Many of the AΩA students, Dr. Cleary, President Danielle Laraque-Arena, and faculty from Neurosurgery had dinner together while he was here.

Patty Gooden  
AΩA Administrator, Gamma Chapter



*STUDENT RESEARCH DAY*  
*April 11, 2018*

Student Research Day was held on April 11, 2018 and highlighted student research from all four Upstate Colleges: Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine and Nursing. The day featured a keynote presentation, student presentations, and an early evening poster session and reception. This was a great event with over 150 posters presented.

**Congratulations to this year's awardees from the College of Medicine:**

Oral presentation: Adham Alifarag and Dawn Lammert

Research Project: Michelle Baker and Joseph DiTursi

Clinical Vignette: Amanda Gemmiti

*Winner of the Student Research Day President's Award was given to Kyle Plante.*

This is a wonderful annual event, and we look forward to COM students participating again next year!

Patty Gooden COM Student Research Day Liaison



## Class of 2019: Save the Date for the Clinical Skills Exam (CSE)

The Upstate Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) will be offered over a number of dates in May, 2018 (see list below). Taking and passing the CSE during one of these scheduled times is a graduation requirement for the College of Medicine.

Enrollment for this exam is available using MyUpstate (also known as Banner) (<https://bannerweb.upstate.edu>); you will sign up for a date to take your exam just as you would sign up for an elective course. Enrollment for the CSE begins on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 12:01 AM. We will send you more details in February about how to enroll for your preferred CSE date. The deadline to enroll for the CSE is Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 11:59 PM. The deadline for add/drop is also Sunday, April 15. Any student who does not enroll by April 15 will be assigned a date.

We have attempted to provide dates for the exam which stretch across two different periods. You are required to take the examination on one of these dates and should arrange your schedule to participate. Students who will be out of town for both periods should plan to return to Syracuse for a day during this time to take the exam.

All sessions for students at both the Syracuse campus and Binghamton Clinical Campus will occur in the Clinical Skills Center, on the basement level of the Setnor Academic Building, attached to Weiskotten Hall, on the Syracuse campus.

If you have any questions regarding the Clinical Skills Exam, please feel free to contact Steve Harris, SP Program Director [harrisssd@upstate.edu](mailto:harrisssd@upstate.edu) or 464-2645. Steve will appear as "Instructor" when you register using MyUpstate.

Good luck!

### CSE 2018:

Tuesday, May 8, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday, May 11, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday, May 14, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesday, May 15, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday, May 21, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday, May 23, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesday, May 29, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

## From the Exam Coordinator

The MS1 year is approaching the end of your year. You are preparing for the Gateway exam. Please note that this will be in the **NBME testing platform**. The Gateway Prep Questions have been released to all. The Gross Anatomy items had rationales with them. The Physiology items with rationales are now available for taking on Blackboard in the Unit 8 Course under Gateway Prep Materials.

The MS2 year is completed and you are in the process of transitioning into your MS3 year. Please be on the lookout for items from our office regarding your agenda, group breakouts and other requirements. Your MS3 year is going to be an exciting year. Please remember to prepare yourself. You will be on the floors for full shifts and then will need to make time to study daily. You will also want to make time for eating healthy, exercise, relaxing and socializing. That's a lot to do. Please make sure to set up a schedule to keep yourself healthy, happy and wise.

For the MS3s heading into the MS4 year, good luck with your AI's, electives and interview trail. Please let me know if any of you need assistance with hospital credentials at the VA or Crouse.

For the MS4s, congratulations on your successes at Upstate. Thank you for the memories that you have given me and the smiles we have had. I wish you all the best in your life adventures. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Tech Corner

**NBME testing platform:** Starting immediately, the NBME Secure Testing Browser will only support Windows 7 and higher and MAC OS 10.9 and higher. If your laptops do NOT meet these requirements, please make sure to upgrade as soon as possible.

**Exemplify:** All Students in the MS1 year must be updated to WIN 1.5 or higher, MAC 1.5 or higher or iPad 3.4 or higher. All students must be using Exemplify going forward. Beginning in June, we will be switching to your Active ID and passwords for logging in. Be on the lookout for more information.

# Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research

## April 2018 Update

### ASSESSMENT

- We are so thankful to all the students from each MS year who participated in focus groups with us in February and March. We know how busy you are but your insights are invaluable so we are so thankful of your time. We have synthesized your opinions and suggestions along with those compiled by the Independent Student Analysis Report and will work to strengthen our programs based on your feedback.

In fact, we have already made important changes to the End of Clerkship Evaluation form based on your suggestions. We've removed the normative descriptors in the scoring anchors so clerkship scores are more transparently based on cut points. Additionally, starting in the second half of clerkship year faculty will be forced to comment when a student earns a score of 'developing.'

### EVALUATION

- We are so proud to report that 98% of our MS4 students matched into residency this year!!
- Over the past few months, we have been surveying the 2017 graduates and their residency directors and we couldn't be prouder of the results! A small snippet of our finding include an overwhelming majority of residency directors believe that our 2017 graduates were above average as compared with peers from other medical schools and our graduates felt well prepared to enter residency.



### TESTING

- We want to join to chorus of other voices around the university in wishing our MS2 class the best of luck in their Step 1 exam. Last year our students performed wonderfully. Our schools average score was a 230, which was above the national score of a 229.



# Student Highlights



To whom I may concern,

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, my wife was admitted to the Crouse Labor & Delivery floor to give birth. During our time there, Patrick Curtin, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Medical Student, was shadowing one of the Doctors.

Patrick was extremely attentive to the needs of my wife and I. We found him to be very personable and eager to engage with us. He checked in regularly and showed a sincere interest in how we were doing. Patrick was wonderful to have involved in our time in L&D and we would be pleased if we were to have him involved in future medical needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Wessel".

Jeffrey Wessel



Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Fair



Phase 1  
Team-Based Learning

## From the Office of Accreditation and Compliance

### Accreditation Self-Study Process Updates

Liaison Committee on Higher Education (LCME)	Middle States Commission on Higher Education
<p>All LCME Working Groups submitted their draft Data Collection Instruments (DCI) on May 1<sup>st</sup>, ending Phase 1 of the Self-Study process. <b>Thank you everyone who helped with this process!!</b></p> <p>Phase 2 of the Self-Study will kick-off on <b>May 14<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4pm (4<sup>th</sup> floor NAB)</b>. Individuals involved in this phase will assess Upstate's compliance against the LCME's standards as demonstrated in the draft DCI.</p> <p>If you would like to participate in the Phase 2 process, please contact Lisa Phelan at: <a href="mailto:PhelanLA@upstate.edu">PhelanLA@upstate.edu</a></p>	<p>The self-study report has been posted online for review by the Upstate Community. You can read the report and provide your feedback here:</p> <p><a href="http://www.upstate.edu/middlestates/intra/feedbackform.php">http://www.upstate.edu/middlestates/intra/feedbackform.php</a></p> <p>The report will be posted online through May 16, 2018. If you have any additional questions or suggestions for improvement, please contact Lisa Neerukonda at: <a href="mailto:NeerukoL@upstate.edu">NeerukoL@upstate.edu</a></p>

### AAMC Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) Completion Rates

As of Monday, April 30, the current response rate to the 2018 AAMC Medical School Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) for State University of New York Upstate Medical University was as follows:

- Completed 68.9% (n=104)
- In Progress 6% (n=6)
- Not Started 25.2% (n=38)

4<sup>th</sup> year students – please complete if you haven't already done so!!!!

The GQ is a national questionnaire administered by the AAMC annually to graduating medical students. The results of this questionnaire are used to inform decision-making in the College of Medicine. We value your feedback!

### LCME Element 12.8: Emergency Preparedness and Blood/Fluid Exposure Policies

#### I. Immediately treat exposure site

- A. Wash the exposed skin with soap and water.
- B. Flush exposed mucus membranes with water.
- C. Flush eyes with at least 500 ml of water or normal saline for at least 3–5 minutes.
- D. Do not apply disinfectants, antibiotics, or caustic agents to the wound.
- E. Proceed to the Emergency Department if wound suturing or other first aid is needed.

#### II. Initiate follow-up without delay

- A. Weekdays between 7:30 AM – 4 PM, call Employee/Student Health (ESH) at (315) 464-4260.
- B. After hours, weekends, and holidays
  1. Proceed to the Emergency Department at that clinical site.
  2. Proceed to the closest Emergency Department if none at the facility.
  3. Notify Student Health of the exposure by leaving a voicemail or calling the next day of business.

For the complete policy and procedure information, go to the website:  
<https://upstate.ellucid.com/documents/view/3042>



## Gold Star and Commendation Form Reminders

**Commendation Forms** are accessible in MedHub for faculty interested in acknowledging students that go above and beyond the call of duty!

**“Gold Star” Reports can be filled out by students, faculty, or staff** to nominate those who demonstrate exemplary professional behaviors or contribute to a positive learning environment. Nominations can be made here:

<http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/support/rights/mistreatment.php>

### **Gross Anatomy Faculty:**

*“The gross anatomy faculty have exemplified professional behavior by fostering a positive learning environment in the small group sessions. The instructors are always receptive to student feedback, and they often stay after class to answer student questions. Each instructor is thorough in lecture and always approachable in lab or lecture whenever a student has a question. In particular, they are very attentive to reviewing material in each lecture so that the gross anatomy thread prepares students for the USMLE and the practice of medicine. Drs. Zajdel, Mihaila, Vilburn, Ball, and Hale all deserve recognition for their commitment to students.”*

### **Director of Administration, Susan Anderson, in the Curriculum Office:**

*“In late January, Unit 6 was in trouble. The Unit Coordinator was on family medical leave, the Clinical CoDirector was still seeing patients, I (the Basic Science CoDirector) was totally overwhelmed, and the handout due date was coming up fast. Susan thought to proactively ask me whether I needed help, and when I said YES she assembled an Instruction Support SWAT team that came to my rescue within the hour. It was really a whole new level of “support,” and saved all of Unit 6 - faculty and students - from what could have been a very shaky first run.”*

### **Testing Coordinator, Colleen Denniston, in the Curriculum Office:**

*“I have literally no idea how Colleen found time among all of her Exam-related responsibilities to jump in and build the Unit 6 Handout and BlackBoard page for me, but when I called for help, there she was. If I'd had to prepare those items alone, they would both have been a week late, and the students would definitely have noticed. At this point, I cannot even list all the ways in which she is indispensable.”*

### **Unit Coordinator, Francine Fischer, in the Department of Pathology:**

*“Fran was incredibly supportive throughout the whole MS2 UPCurriculum roll-out year, despite having many other competing responsibilities. She was called upon many times to be the institutional memory for all Pharmacology education issues, and even helped with things not related to Pharmacology when we had emergencies. Without her leadership, this year would have been much more chaotic for our students.”*

### **Unit Coordinator, Donna Welch, in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology:**

*“The Unit 6 CoDirectors are very grateful to Donna for joining the Course Support SWAT Team that swooped in to cover for our Unit Coordinator when she had to go deal with a family medical emergency. Education Support is not one of Donna's assigned tasks, and her professionalism in stepping in to cover for us anyway was one of the reasons that most of our students did not notice the Coordinator's absence.”*



### **Additional positive feedback from students through course/clerkship evaluations and direct feedback to the Associate Dean of UME:**

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Beth Nicholas, MD, in the Department of Emergency Medicine:**

*“First year students expressed their appreciation for Dr. Nicholas’ disclaimer regarding diversity and the mannequins/simulators. They really appreciated her efforts and willingness to directly address issues relating to diversity in your lecture/presentation.”*

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Matthew Mason, MD, in the Department of Urology:**

*“One of the best we learned from this unit! The energy and enthusiasm Dr. Mason brought to his lecture, coupled with its organization and the clarity of its learning objectives made it one of the most effective--and most enjoyable--lectures in the entirety of Unit 6. The questions asked on the exam were very appropriate for the content taught. Thank you for being so clear, so fair, and so in-tune with where we are at in our educational process. It was a pleasure learning from you.”*

**PGY-3 Resident, Dr. Steve Butala, MD, in the Department of Internal Medicine:**

*“Steve is one of the greatest residents I’ve worked with. He set expectations, asked pertinent questions, gave me a chance to show him what I knew, and routinely gave helpful feedback on my notes on a daily basis. I aspire to work as efficiently with the positive attitude Steve had when I am one day a resident. He is a model teacher whom others in the program could learn from.”*

**Clinical Instructor, Dr. Erin Miller, DO, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wilson Hospital in Binghamton:**

*“Dr. Miller sets a phenomenal example of what great bedside manner and patient care look like. The sensitivity and caring she shows her patients is something I will strive to emulate now and in the future. She is also a great teacher... I am very glad that I had the chance to work with Dr. Miller as I learned a lot from her and really enjoyed my time in her office as well.”*

## **LCME Element 5.7: Security, Student Safety, and Disaster Preparedness**

**A medical school ensures that adequate security systems are in place at all locations and publishes policies and procedures to ensure student safety and to address emergency and disaster preparedness.**

**SUNY Upstate Campus Disaster Plan**

**<https://upstate.ellucid.com/documents/view/1468>**

The following is a listing of the University’s crime prevention programs and projects:

- Escort Service: Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone to any on campus location.
- Personal Security: Crime prevention presentations are made available on a regular basis at new student and employee orientations. Custom presentations or surveys are made at the request of any group.
- Emergency Telephone: Emergency telephones and call boxes, linked directly to the University
- Police, are located throughout the campus.
- Architectural Design: The University Police Department has significant input into the design of all new and renovated campus facilities as related to physical and electronic security systems.
- Facilities Surveys: The University Police Department and the Personal Safety Committee conduct periodic surveys of exterior lighting, exterior doors and campus grounds. Results of these surveys are forwarded to Physical Plant for prompt action.
- Rape Awareness: Rape awareness education and prevention presentations are made annually to the campus community.
- Organized participative Safety and Security committees also operate at the university for the benefit of all students, staff and visitors.
- Further information may be found at <http://www.upstate.edu/universitypolice/about/reports.php>

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Upstate is committed to improving the health of the community. We seek your help in compiling a list of projects, programs, activities, events, education, and community outreach our faculty, staff, and students participate in. If you participate in community service activities, log in to Self-Serve to complete a form for each activity.

## We know you do it...



**LOG  
IT**

Access Volunteer Opportunities at  
<http://www.upstate.edu/teamupstate/>

### How to Enter it...

Log into MyUpstate & click on the Community Service tab

Questions? Contact Linda Veit at [veitl@upstate.edu](mailto:veitl@upstate.edu) or 315-464-6303.