

# Upstate Medical University Undergraduate Medical Education Office NEWSLETTER

AUGUST  
2022

*Improve the health of the communities we serve  
through education, biomedical research and health care*

## Letter from the UME Office

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



Dear Students & Faculty:

Greetings from the UME Office,

It is August and that means it is time to welcome our new MD and MPH students and to welcome back our returning students. We welcome new residents and new faculty, too!

We are happy that you are all here!

It has been nice to see some of your friendly faces in person, too, since masks currently are not mandatory in non-clinical areas! Unfortunately, coronavirus cases are on the rise again in various areas. University and hospital administration are doing their best to develop and adapt policies and procedures to keep our community safe. Masking in classrooms may return. Be sure to read Upstate Announcements for the latest guidelines.

I would like to update you on our ongoing curriculum renewal. The LCME (medical school accrediting body) gave us the go ahead a few months back and working groups have been ironing out the details. Students who start their MD in Fall 2023 will be introduced to the new curriculum which will integrate foundational, clinical and health systems sciences, provide early clinical exposure, and offer individualized educational options.

Phase 1 will be three semesters of organ-based units and concurrent longitudinal courses including a clinical skills course, clinical preceptorship with outpatient and inpatient experiences, and neuro-behavioral course. Active and small group learning built around clinical cases will be featured. Phase 2 will be

five (or three) semesters with 45 weeks of core clerkships, acting internships, home and/or away electives and the Transition to Residency course (TtR), Microcredentials, research opportunities, combined degrees, and an accelerated (three year) MD pathway will be offered.

Health systems science topics including social determinants of health, health system improvement, ethics, and legal issues, and leadership will be delivered through intercessions in Phase 1 and through clerkships, Clinical Bioethics and TtR in Phase 2. Throughout the curriculum, students will participate in standardized patient, interprofessional, simulation, community engagement, and career and professional development experiences.

We hope that you had a chance to participate in a working group, share your thoughts at a forum, or submit suggestions regarding the curriculum renewal. If not, or if you have more ideas or suggestions, it is not too late! Please email me (LesperaL@upstate.edu) and I will forward your email to the appropriate person.

Best wishes for the 2022-23 academic year! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Leann Lesperance, MD PhD FAAP  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical  
Education

[www.upstate.edu/ume](http://www.upstate.edu/ume)

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

# Phase 1

The new academic year has begun and we have welcomed the MS1 students to campus. There were two in person sessions of academic orientation on August 4th and 5th. MS2 students were excited to all be together in one place again for academic orientation on the morning of August 8th.

Tips for Phase 1 (MS1/MS2 Students):

- Attend each Course Introduction – In addition to our general orientation sessions, a short course introduction is conducted by all courses prior to the first learning session. We urge all students to attend these resource rich sessions as course expectations vary from course to course and year to year.
- Plan ahead – There are so many things to do in a short amount of time; time management is so important. Exam/quiz and learning session schedules, as well as longitudinal course syllabi are available at the beginning of the year with information about big assignments to come. You will need to plan for these in advance, especially toward the end of the year. The UME office will send a Weekly Newsflash, which highlights what you can expect out of the curriculum for the coming week. Students should always review course syllabi for a full picture of expectations and assignments.
- Take advice from previous classes with thoughtfulness – Remember that this is a curriculum with ever-evolving plans and content. What held true for AY 2021-2022 may not hold true for AY 2022-2023. Read your syllabi for the most up-to-date information on each course and reach out to course directors, coordinators and/or the UME office with questions.

Best wishes to all for a successful and fulfilling new academic year!!

Thomas J Poole, PhD

Assistant Dean for the Foundational Sciences

Theresa Stowell

Director for the Foundational Sciences

## Phase 2

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Our third-year students have been in clerkships for about 12 weeks now, and we are proud to see them involved in patient care and working alongside us in the clinical setting! This group of students had limited clinical experiences during their first two years, but they have been improving quickly since the start of clerkships. They have been very motivated to learn and stay fully involved in patient care.

Our fourth-year students are preparing to apply to residency, participating in electives and acting internships and working to secure letters of recommendation. There is no restriction on away rotations this year, and our students have been securing them and eager to show their skills and enthusiasm to these programs they are interested in. Residency applications will occur during the month of September, with programs able to start downloading student applications on September 29.

Thank you everyone for your continued flexibility, adaptation, and motivation! We continue to be proud of the entire Upstate team, including all faculty, staff, and students.

Matt Mason, MD  
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences

## Testing & Technology Corner

### Welcome!!

Welcome/Welcome back to our MS1 and MS2 students. It is time to start a funtastic new academic year!!

**COM Student Resources:** [https://www.upstate.edu/ume/com\\_students.php](https://www.upstate.edu/ume/com_students.php)

### Calendars

You can locate all sorts of calendar information on our UME Academic Schedules website: <https://www.upstate.edu/ume/schedules.php>

Some of the most clicked calendars are:

**MS1 Daily Schedule:** <https://outlook.office365.com/calendar/published/e6dedfc41dad42ff8195c633be75dfd1@upstate.edu/12e97948b9224277a18f9de43fff224d8161298622528895935/calendar.html>

**MS2 Daily Schedule:** <https://outlook.office365.com/calendar/published/e6dedfc41dad42ff8195c633be75dfd1@upstate.edu/23a7ae48ba0f4d4ea4024f8c23efcf9e9675608008344128679/calendar.html>

**Academic Calendar:** <https://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/academic/records/calendars.php>

### Testing platform: Exemplify!!

Exemplify is the next wave in the test taking software for students from ExamSoft. Exemplify is the application that students will be using to take their exams in the first 2 years of medical school. Students can download your copy here: <https://ei.examsoft.com/GKWeb/login/upstatedmed>. As we are Single Sign On (SSO) ready, it is just a matter of logging in with your active ID and password. Should you have any issues with logging in, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

### Student Access/Hospital Credentialing

If you require access to Epic, PACS/Synapse, Remote Access or need help getting Crouse or VA credentials, please follow the instructions on the Student Access website under the drop down for the request you are seeking: <https://www.upstate.edu/ume/intra/student-access.php>.

If you have any questions or need any other assistance, please email me directly at [den-nisc@upstate.edu](mailto:den-nisc@upstate.edu).

Colleen Denniston  
Testing Coordinator  
WH 3201

## Greetings from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research!

We hope you all had wonderful summers!

First and foremost, we'd like to extend a welcome to our incoming MS1 class! We cannot wait to get to know you all! We are

Dr. Lauren Germain, the Director of Evaluation, Assessment and Research, Jeremy French-Lawyer, the Assistant Director of Evaluation Assessment and Research and Josie Suser, the Assistant Director of Institutional Research.

Our office consults on program evaluation strategy including the student evaluations you will be completing while at Upstate. We believe that evaluations are about learning and growing, so during each course and clerkship we will ask that you provide feedback on the faculty, residents, and the overall course/clerkship experience. We know how busy you are, and we appreciate you taking time to complete these evaluations. They are a pivotal part of continuous quality improvement, and many of the questions are used for LCME accreditation purposes.

In addition to student evaluations, we also help faculty and College of Medicine leadership review and analyze student assessment data to ensure students are progressing smoothly through the curriculum. Our work in this area has been recognized nationally. Along with Drs. Ripa, Glass, and Maimone we recently presented a poster at the American Association of Medical Colleges Pathway Pipelines and Bridges conference and have a publication in *Medical Science Educator* coming out shortly.

We enjoy partnering with students who are interested in medical education research and have recently published the following papers with medical students. If medical education is an interest of yours, please reach out, we'd love to work with you!

Bosinski, C.\*, Rice, M.\*, Mason, M., & **Germain, L.** (2022). Using the EPAs to Measure the Clinical Experience of Medical Students. *Peer Reviewed Reports in Medical Education Research*.

**Germain, L.J.**, Li, H.\*, Zahn, L., Stewart, T., Hobart, T., & Caruso Brown, A. (2022). Does Peer Assessment Impact Self-Efficacy During Small Group Learning? *Peer Reviewed Reports in Medical Education Research*.

Barros Una, L.\*, Brangman, S., Indelicato, A., Krueger, A., Ludwig, A., Slutzky, A.R., Stewart, T., & **Germain, L.J.\*\*** (2022). Using Second Life to Teach Health Professions Students About Alzheimer's Disease: A Comprehensive Review. *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education*.

## Greetings from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research!

In the third year we review student performance data to help inform curricular and programmatic strategies. As of July 28<sup>th</sup>, we are proud to report that our clerkship students are doing wonderfully in the clinical evaluations. Below is the rubric faculty and residents use to evaluate students while on the floors. Within each domain there are five possible scores a student can earn (lowest to highest). Shown below are the percentage of evaluations that indicate students have exceeded expectations in the domains during the first two months of clerkship year.

Domain	Percent of Scores that exceed expectations per domain
1. Elicits an accurate history and performs an appropriate physical examination with an organized and respectful approach (PC 1-EPA 1)	77.88%
2. Constructs a comprehensive problem list and differential diagnosis (PC2-EPA 2)	85.10%
3. Relates to patients in a respectful, caring manner (IICS 3-EPA 12)	90.77%
4. Demonstrates respect for and appreciation of input from other health care professionals and teams (IICS 1-EPA 9)	92.19%
5. Provides timely, clear, and accurate written and oral information about patients (IICS 2-EPA 6, EPA 9)	86.85%
6. Engages in professional behaviors including reliability, dependability, and punctuality (PR 1-EPA 1, 9)	90.69%
7. Demonstrates accountability, contribution, and commitment to patient care (PR 1, EPA 12)	90.88%
8. Develops insightful, focused questions based on clinical scenarios (LI 2-EPA 7)	96.00%
9. Identifies gaps in knowledge by reading about patient condition and/or pre-reading about patient's case (LI 2-EPA 7)	90.29%

We recently acquired an exciting new dataset from the AAMC- the Resident Readiness Survey. It includes feedback from the program directors who have been working with members of Upstate MD program's class of 2020 and 2021 as compared to all new residents. Program directors rate the skills and behaviors of new residents in the survey. 100% of the program directors who rated class of 2021 Upstate graduates indicated that they met or exceeded overall performance expectations! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. We love hearing from you!

Dr. Lauren Germain: [germainl@upstate.edu](mailto:germainl@upstate.edu)  
Jeremy French Lawyer: [Frenchlj@upstate.edu](mailto:Frenchlj@upstate.edu)  
Josie Suser: [Suserj@upstate.edu](mailto:Suserj@upstate.edu)

## The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!

The Office of Accreditation and Compliance is dedicated to promoting academic excellence and supporting institutional planning through the coordination of accreditation processes, documentation of academic compliance, and implementation of continuous quality improvement strategies. The office also supports activities related to the State University of New York (SUNY), New York State of Education Department (NYSED), and federal compliance requirements for academic program planning, registration and for the support of academic program success. Accreditation is intended to strengthen and sustain higher education, making it worthy of public confidence and minimizing the scope of external control. Regional accreditation, a means of self-regulation adopted by the higher education community, has evolved to support these goals.

### COLLEGE OF MEDICINE STUDENTS YOUR VOICE MATTERS



### TAKE THE MATRICULATING STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (MSQ) TODAY AND HELP US:

- UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS
- IMPROVE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- PLAN THE DIRECTION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION
- ASSESS THE NATION'S FUTURE PHYSICIAN SUPPLY

The 2022 AAMC Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ) for the class of 2026 opened June 1. To take it, look for an email from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) [msq@aamc.org](mailto:msq@aamc.org) inviting you to take the survey. The survey only takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, and your participation can make a difference for the future of medical education.

We would strongly encourage you to take the time to fill out the survey as it helps provide useful information for our team. The MSQ is a confidential and the results are used to understand the needs of first-year medical students, improve medical education programs, help plan the direction of medical education and assess the nation's future physician supply.

All active students will later be invited to take two additional surveys from the AAMC, the Year Two Questionnaire (Y2Q) that is sent out to second year medical students and the Graduate Questionnaire (GQ) that is sent out to fourth year medical students.

These surveys are used to help us understand the climate and culture and evaluate the program to improve the medical student experience.

## The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!



# DID YOU KNOW?

### **The Age of MSQ Participants at Matriculation Continues to Rise.**

The percentage of respondents aged 23 to 25 increased slightly to 52.7% in 2021 (up from 51.9% in 2020 and 51.8% in 2019), and respondents aged 20 to 22 upon matriculation dropped from 31.8% in 2020 to 30.3% in 2021. Similarly, well over half (68.5%) of new matriculants reported that a year or more had passed since graduating from college (up from 65.2% in 2019 and 66.3% in 2020).

### **Over One-third of Matriculants are Interested in Generalist Specialties or their Subspecialties.**

In 2021, 36.0% of new medical students indicated plans to enter Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, or Pediatrics specialties or subspecialties. Of those who indicated an interest in those specialty areas, 47.2% are considering a career in a subspecialty, 28.3% are considering a career in primary care practice, 6.1% are considering a career as a hospitalist, and 18.4% are undecided.

### **Matriculants are Interested in Working in Patient Care While Still Considering Work/Life Balance.**

"Almost all 2021 MSQ participants (97.6%) indicated plans to participate in patient care during their career. Of those respondents, 15.8% anticipate working in patient care on a part-time basis (less than 36 hours a week). Over three-fifths (64.5%) of MSQ participants indicated plans to participate in research during their career. Only 2.4% of 2021 MSQ participants who indicated plans to participate in research during their career expect to be involved in research on a full-time basis. Of those same participants, 44.2% expect to be "significantly involved" in research.

When asked to think about career paths after medical school, "work/life balance" (51.5%), having a "stable, secure future" (47.7%), and the "ability to pay off debt" (45.3%) were most frequently cited as "essential" considerations. The career consideration that was most frequently reported as "not important" to new medical students was "social recognition or status" (45.3%)." (Association of American Medical Colleges, December 2021)



## The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!

An environment that optimizes learning and is built on respect and dignity is Upstate Medical University's expectation. The Office of Undergraduate Medical Education provides several opportunities for students to provide feedback on faculty, residents, and staff to highlight individuals who have enhanced their experience on campus



Please fill out this [electronic form](#) to highlight examples of faculty, students, or staff who have demonstrated exemplary professional behaviors.

Join us in congratulating and celebrating some of our recent Gold Star recipients

### **Robert Zajdel Cell & Developmental Biology**

*Every Saturday he holds office hours even if he is sick. He makes sure we are learning and keeping up with the material. He wants to make sure that we succeed in this unit and he did the same for the last unit. He will go out of his way to help us.*

### **William Hartz - Sr. Programmer Analyst**

*Bill is the most helpful, genuine, and kind programmer I've dealt with at SUNY Upstate. His hard-working sense of self is what sets him apart! He is incredibly attentive, a quick responder to issues, and always sees his work through. Recently, the department of otolaryngology needed his assistance in gathering quite a bit of data from Epic when we ran into trouble. Bill made it very clear he could help and delivered the most incredible results. We could not have done this research project without his expertise. Bill, THANK YOU SO MUCH! Your dedication to this hospital system is evident in your actions. Words cannot describe how thankful we are for your time, and we think you are well deserving to be recognized for it.*

### **Psychiatry Department Residents**

*The psychiatry residents sent the fourth year medical students an email wishing us support and providing us with peer support during Match week. This is an incredible example of support by the residents to the medical students as they take the time out of their busy schedules to recognize the stress of the Match week. Their support and well wishes are very much appreciated this week.*

### **Dr. David Kwiatkowski -Family Medicine**

I was working with another provider in the office who had a difficult interaction with a patient. Dr. K heard about the encounter and in between patients, came over to the treatment room and checked in on the provider to make sure she was ok. Even though it was a small gesture, it had a significant positive impact on not only the office environment, but also the learning environment.

### **Danya Contreras – Class of 2025 MD-MDCN**

*Danya Contreras, a first year medical student, helped out immensely as we transitioned back to in-person lectures. She was instrumental in getting faculty lecturers set up with the A/V systems in various locations, throughout the year, so that lectures could be recorded. All of the MS1 coordinators are so grateful for her dedication and assistance. Thank you, Danya!*

## The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!

### **Dr. Claudia Ofori-Marfoh - Urology**

*As a medical student, I spent time this semester shadowing some physicians under whom Dr. Ofori-Marfoh was working; every time I worked with her, she helped make sure I was learning as much as I could, helped me feel like part of the team, and went out of her way to make sure I understood what was going on with every patient and case we encountered. She is a wonderful example of a great physician, treating her patients in a respectful, dignified manner with effortful communication and compassion, and engaging students in a meaningful way that facilitated a positive learning environment. I would consider myself lucky to have Dr. Ofori-Marfoh as a resident, attending, or provider!*

### **Dr. Naveed Rahman -Surgery**

*Naveed has excellent leadership and supports every individual in his team. With his strong foundation in knowledge, he thoroughly teaches interns and medical students. He is a great instructor.*

### **Dr. Jonathan Korets Anesthesiology**

*Dr. Korets has made my time on the anesthesia career exploration elective extremely worthwhile. My first week on the service, he was sympathetic to the fact that I was a new third year student on my first clinical rotation, and he helped me gain confidence in an unfamiliar setting through his patience and encouragement. Dr. Korets consistently offered clear explanations of difficult concepts and went out of his way to make sure I was observing and/or performing interesting procedures that were fruitful for my education. His sense of humor on the job fostered a very comfortable learning environment as well. Upstate is lucky to have physician teachers like Dr. Korets on their team, and I encourage any student rotating on anesthesia to seek him out...you won't regret it!*

### **Dr. Meghan Leary – Emergency Medicine**

*My shifts with Dr. Leary were some of my favorite ones during the EM clerkship. She was very approachable to questions, took time to teach, and asked questions in a manner that encouraged learning without intimidation. She was able to strike a very good balance between all aspects of teaching. She was also extremely patient with her students--especially when teaching procedures*

### **Elana Sitnik - Class of 2024 MD-MDCN**

*I would like to bring forth exceptionalism of the medical student, Elana Sitnik, and nominate her for a Gold Star Report. Medical students have little free time and those that spend that time further contributing to the field of medicine should be brought to attention. Student Doctor Sitnik is one of those rare students so committed to the betterment of our field. A short 24 hours after finishing her USMLE Step 1 exam, instead of taking time to relax and recuperate, she instead flew to Chicago to participate in the rigorous debates of the American Medical Association (AMA) Annual Meeting (06/12/2022-06/15/2022), colloquially known as the "House of Medicine." Student Doctor Sitnik was representing the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) as a delegate and wonderfully brought forward the medical student perspective and priorities. In particular, she acted as a liaison between the Medical Student Section and MSSNY with respect, clarity, and effectiveness. Bridging ideas and garnering support for each organization's policy priorities is the quintessential work of a delegate. Not only did Student Doctor Sitnik perform excellently in this role, but she also provided testimony in the House of Delegates, speaking on behalf of New York and medical students in front over 2000 people. She spoke with poise and passion, which is not easy on this grand stage. MSSNY is fortunate to have her on the delegation and the student section certainly made a good choice in electing her to the position. Lastly, as impressive as she was, this was Student Doctor Sitnik's first AMA meeting, and I see her continuing to be a strong proponent for her patients in the policy world in the future. Again, I believe that Student Doctor Elana Sitnik is deserving of the Gold Star Report for her work outside the classroom for her patients*

