



Upstate Medical University



www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/

*Improve the health of the communities
We serve through education, biomedical
Research and health care*

Letter from Dean Ko

Curriculum Office

February
2019

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.



Students, Faculty, Staff and Colleagues:

Happy New Year!

2019 has come quickly for us, and I know many in the institution are busy with the final preparation for our upcoming LCME Accreditation visit in March. We successfully submitted all of our documents to the LCME in December (All 400+ pages of a Data Collecting Instrument, with 280 associated appendices!).

Many students are understandably anxious while waiting for spring to get here.

MS4 students, you are excited and maybe a bit nervous about the upcoming Match Day results; all your hard work over the last four years will be worth it and we are excited to celebrate that with you on March 15th.

MS3 students, you are trying to decide on what specialty you will be doing and planning your 4th year around that; the faculty at Upstate (including specialty advisors, learning community advisors, and all of the deans) are more than happy to guide you through this important process.

MS2 students, the Step 1 exam is weighing on many of your minds; we have been working with Katie Daley in the academic support office to help you through this process. Again, know that the faculty are here to help you in any way possible to ensure you are successful.

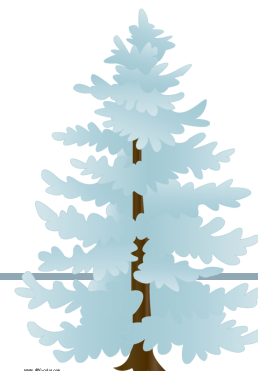
MS1 students, I hope you have gotten into the rhythm of the medical school curriculum by now and are thinking about the various options you have for the summer; whether it be clinical shadowing, research, spending time back home with family or friends, or traveling the world, we encourage you to seek out these opportunities.

Here's to a great year for 2019!

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul Ko
Associate Dean for
Undergraduate Medical Education



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



Phase 1

We hope the year is going well for everyone! MS2's are in the homestretch!

The **MS1** Class is currently in the 'Cardiovascular, Respiratory I' Unit, working through integrated evaluation practices in POM and reasoning/diagnosis case examples (ACS and Asthma) in FRM1. Patients to Populations continues to weave ethics, law, economics, public policy, social medicine, and population health into the mix for MS1's, illustrating how these domains impact individual patients and populations. **MS2's** are wrapping up their 'Renal, Reproductive, Endocrine' Unit, building on the disease aspects of these areas from 'Endocrine, Reproductive' in MS1. POM2 & FRM2 continue to supplement unit content with relevant histories, physicals, SP encounters and case-based learning opportunities, to include concept maps with the continued goal to prepare you all as well-rounded clinicians.

We continue to find opportunities for more clinical relevance in Phase 1, as it is one of our most important goals. Drs. Zajdel, Johnson and Nicholas teamed up to bring ultrasound to the classroom in MS1 'Cardiovascular, Respiratory I' this year, utilizing our standardized patients. Drs. Mihaila & Ramamurthy asked Residents to review clinical cases with students during the MS2 'Nervous System II' as well. This is in addition to many other efforts.

Updates/Reminders

- ✓ Reach out to University support for study or wellness concerns – we have many resources.
- ✓ Step 1 Style (Kaplan) questions for MS1 & MS2 student use, practice and CREDIT (2%!)
 - Winter Break Happy Hour contest: Skaneateles wins!
 - 96.51 % participation rate in MS1 and 98.87 % participation rate in MS2. Great job everyone! This can only help you in your Step 1 performance.
- ✓ Course Annual Reviews continue on a rolling basis
 - Phase 1 Meetings hold annual reviews of your courses throughout the year. Peer Reviewers and Class Officers are able to provide additional feedback to each unit.
- ✓ As a reminder, you can find all members of the Curriculum Office in 1 location now. We are all located in SET 4508; this includes POM, P2P & FRM administrative staff, Deans Ko & Poole and other Curriculum Office Staff.
- ✓ Attend Course Introductions so you don't miss something. Directors and Thread Leaders use this time to illustrate the expectations of each unit – which are not all alike.
- ✓ Make sure you are planning ahead for assignments at this time of year. Courses like P2P have even built in time for MS1's to work on final projects or papers affiliated with their course.

“STEP Into Your Roadmap” Step Prep Session

January 22, 2019



Come enjoy the next Step Prep Session

“STEP INTO YOUR ZONE”

February 14, 3:30-4:30PM
NAB 4414 B/C

- ✓ Live Music! Department Chairs & Lecturers open this session with a jam
- ✓ Mindset strategies to help reduce 1 anxiety
- ✓ Lead yourself down the path of success
- ✓ There will be snacks!

Phase 2

Dear Upstate students, faculty, and staff,

Our third-year medical students are now roughly halfway through their clerkships, and our fourth-year students are looking forward to match day on March 15th. Congratulations to our fourth-year students who have already completed the early match a couple weeks ago!

The phase 2 curriculum just completed our annual review of all clerkships, considering multiple sources of information and feedback from faculty and students alike, and we look forward to ever-continuing improvements for next year!

To remind everyone of a few of our recent updates:

- Medical students can now write progress notes in the Epic EMR that can be cosigned by resident/attending physicians and are part of the actual medical record. We have heard good things from students, residents, and faculty alike that this change has enabled our students to feel that they have a more important role in patient care teams.
- Our students, clerkships, and departments have been reminded that medical students have a right to attend their personal healthcare appointments and that we in the curriculum office can help facilitate any difficulty with excused time for healthcare. I think our clerkships are currently doing a great job making sure that students can get to their healthcare appointments!
- We recently changed the clinical evaluation of medical student form for clerkships, such that now any time a student is given a “developing” rating, a comment will be required to explain what the student did to fall below expected level of performance and what they need to do for the future to improve.

As a final reminder, anyone at Upstate can file a Gold Star report about anyone else (student, faculty, or staff) that they feel had a positive influence on the learning environment and/or professional standards. This can be found on the Upstate website by searching for “gold star”, or you can scan the QR code below. Let's share our appreciation for one another!

Thanks everyone, and keep up the good work!

Matt Mason, MD
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences



Exam News

To the **MS3** class, you are wrapping up your last exams and things have been running smoothly. Keep up the great work. For any Binghamton **MS3's** that are considering Acting Internships (AIs) in Syracuse, please contact me to find out if any Hospital Credentialing is required.

MS2's are approaching their final unit before heading off for Step 1. With that you will have your last ExamSoft unit exam and start your NBME exam experience. I will be sending you instructions for how to test your computer for taking exams in the NBME web-based platform. Be on the lookout for that email after your Unit 6 exam.

MS1's: You have passed the halfway mark for your first year. The Gateway exam is scheduled for May 22, 2019. The Gateway exam is administered in the NBME platform. I will be sending you instructions in May on how to test your computers for taking these exams.

MS1 and MS2's: Your continued use of the Kaplan items help prepare you for your upcoming MS2 Subject exams and MS1 Gateway exam.

Kaplan Completion: Kudos to both the MS1 and MS2 classes. We have had great participation rates with the Kaplan Item completion for the Fall Semester. Keep up the great work. Here are some of the key points for both classes:

Description	MS1	MS2
Total Weeks Kaplan Required	11	19
Average # of Weeks completed per student	8.13	15.36
Items Expected to be completed	95	470
Average # of Items Completed Total	101.71	574.30
Average # of Items Completed per Week	9.25	30.23
Participation Rate (Have completed at least 1 week)	96.51%	98.87%

Please note when completing the Kaplan questions, you are not expected to achieve 65% or above. Please note that Dr. Mason stated this week that he was achieving 40-50% on banked items when he was in MS1/MS2 year of Medical School. The goal is for you to become familiar with these types of items. The more practice you get answering these items, the better you will become at standardized test taking. The items that you are taking are on content that you are currently learning. It is to supplement your studies, not to become your studies. Please note that we expect you to spend 1 minute per item in answering these items. Then please spend the rest of your time on your unit study and preparation.

Good Luck with your studies and please stop by or email with any questions you may have.

Colleen Denniston
Exam and Evaluation Coordinator
Setnor Hall, Room 4508
dennistc@upstate.edu

February
2019

EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT & RESEARCH

Josie Suser &
Lauren Germain

Winter Update



Relevant recent activities

MS 1 & 2

Our office continues to support faculty in their summative assessment work by reviewing all MS1 & 2 item analyses.

We've also been working on the evaluation of educational innovations including the P2P grading scheme (book chapter on the assessment system and program evaluation process are forthcoming in 2019) & the ultrasound module in January.

We're also excited to report that we have been working with 2 MS2 students on their curriculum elective projects.

MS3

We continue to work with clerkship directors to enhance the clinical evaluation system by running 'system health checks' (see below) and working with the MS3 evaluation task force to continuously improve the alignment between the system and program goals.

Just a brief reminder for MS3s planning their 4th year, here's a link to the feedback we've collected on AIs from previous Upstate classes: http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/document/intra/away_electives_dataset_report_3_25_15.pdf

MS4

We're participating in the M4 planning task force meetings and we're looking forward to seeing where the process goes.

MEDHUB

Josie is starting a major project to enhance the usability of our MedHub account by organizing and warehousing the forms and data in the system. If you have thoughts or ideas on this process or want to help, please email her at suserj@upstate.edu

CQI: ONGOING ASSESSMENT SYSTEM 'HEALTH CHECKS'

MS3 clinical evaluation system: Between 11/14/18-1/14/19, 1322 evaluations of MS3 student clinical skills were completed. Greater than 97% of evaluations include ratings indicating that students meet or perform better than expectations in every domain.

SPE cases: We continue to work with BLine, the Clinical Skills Center and the clerkship directors to examine scoring on standardized patient encounters to ensure comparability and quality.

ONGOING PROGRAM EVALUATION

Residency Director Survey: We recently sent a survey to the program directors that uses Hofstra's EPA measurement tool. The response rate as of 1.14.19 is ~30%.

Alumni survey: We sent a survey to all of the graduates of the class of 2018. The response rate as of 1.14.19 is ~28%.

Where are they now? We worked with the alumni office to examine where the graduates of the class of 2007 are practicing now. 47% list business addresses in NY and 25% are in primary care.



From the Office of Accreditation and Compliance



Self-Study Process Updates

Thank you to all of the faculty, students, and staff that participated in our LCME Mock Site visit in January!

We are well underway with preparations for the full site visit in **March 24-27, 2019**. During that time a five-person survey team will visit our campus and meet with various groups of faculty, residents, students, and staff. Look for more information to be provided in the coming weeks via email reminders about important policies and procedures, as well as details about the site visit.

If you have questions about the LCME self-study process, feel free to contact the Office of Accreditation and Compliance or the Curriculum Office at any time. More details can be found on our website at:

<http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/lcme/index.php>

Upstate Compliance Hotline

315 464-6444

The Office of Institutional Compliance has a hotline for anyone to call and report a suspected compliance concern at Upstate Hospital. More about this hotline and others at Upstate can be found here: <http://www.upstate.edu/compliance/hotline.php>



Elective Opportunities

Upstate offers over 200 elective opportunities to students throughout their four years. The Course Catalog lists all electives offered for students in the MD program, and can be found online (<http://www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/courses/electives.php>).

Some examples of these courses include:

- Unique Electives, are electives proposed by students who wish to do research in a specific field which will allow them more in depth exposure to that particular area of medicine.
- The Miracle Elective, which pairs students with mothers-to-be for the pregnancy, delivery and the baby's first year.
- "Away Electives," which can involve spending several weeks at other medical schools, at the Center for Disease Control or the National Institutes of Health, or seeing patients in medically underserved parts of the United States or in other countries. Some students take an away elective the summer after their first year at SUNY Upstate.



Save the Date!
MS 3 Spring Advising Week:
April 1-5, 2019

Students will be attending their advising session by learning community during the first week of April. Make sure to arrive on time for lunch and one-on-one sessions with your learning community advisors! The specific dates by learning community are below:

Keuka: Monday, April 1 from 12 - 2:30 pm; room TBD

Canandaigua: Tuesday, April 2 from 12 - 2:30 pm; room TBD

Seneca: Wednesday, April 3 from 12 - 2:30 pm; room TBD

Cayuga: Thursday, April 4 from 12 - 2:30 pm; room TBD

Skaneateles: Friday, April 5 from 12 - 2:30 pm; room TBD

AAMC Graduation Questionnaire (GQ)

On February 14, all MS4 students will be sent a link to the AAMC's GQ survey. This survey is a national questionnaire administered annually to all graduating medical students. This provides students the opportunity to give their feedback on all four years of the curriculum and their overall experience at Upstate. We value your feedback, and use the results to inform decision-making in the College of Medicine!

Dean Licinio has authorized \$1000 to be deposited into your Class of 2019 account if at least 75% of your class completes the GQ by March 8. When 90% have completed the survey by Match Day, an additional \$500 will be deposited into your account. This can be used to fund graduation related activities.



**Equal Opportunity, Non-Discrimination,
Sexual Harassment & Title IX Policy**



Key to the mission of the SUNY Upstate Medical University is to ensure the campus environment respects and values the diversity of all who work, learn, and receive care within its walls. The university's goal is to ensure that all staff, students, and faculty understand that discrimination of any form is not to be tolerated.

Please take the time to review the policy:

http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/document/equal_opp_title_ix.pdf



Gold Star and Commendation Form



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

A **"Gold Star" report 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>

PGY-1 Resident, Dr. Rohan Akhouri, in the Department of Pediatrics:

"Rohan is one of the nicest residents I have ever worked with. On the very first day of Pediatrics, he was quick to encourage us to take our education seriously and to dive right in. He even took time out of his busy day to print out reference reading for the students. He is a prime example of excellence in the educational environment."

PGY-3 Resident, Dr. Sara Bartool, in the Department of Pediatrics:

"During downtime at clinic, Sara took time to teach the medical students about some of the ins and outs of residency. We talked about life, and she offered us some solid advice. She consistently treats the medical students as peers and colleagues and makes us feel welcome, and her example is a great one to follow."

Director, Steven Harris, in the Standardized Patient Program:

"Steve Harris is an exemplar of understated professionalism, which is of great value in the SP clinic. Given that medical students likely have the pressure of the standardized patient encounter on their minds when interacting with him for the most part, I think this commendation is especially relevant. Thank you, Steve, for demonstrating your degree of integrity, good-nature, kindness, and humor at every SPE. Your tireless devotion to doing your job well is felt, even if it isn't communicated often enough."

Additional positive feedback from student course/clerkship evaluations:

Assistant Professor, Dr. Sherrie Hale, in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology:

"She is, in my opinion, the best teacher here that I have met so far....What stands out is the attitude she brings to the classroom and learning. Kind, helpful, compassionate, and with a real passion for education and betterment."

Assistant Professor, Dr. Tolani Ajagbe, in the Department of Psychiatry:

"Dr. Ajagbe is a fantastic and inspirational attending physician, teacher, and monitor. He always took the time out of his busy schedule to teach the medical students on his service. His teachings went well beyond just addiction medicine, focusing on all aspects of psychiatry, to help us better prepare for the exam... He is the type of attending that I strive to become one day."

Administrative Assistant, Barbara Hinds, in the Standardized Patient Program & Curriculum Office:

"I wanted to share with you how much we truly appreciate Barb Hinds in the Clinical Skills Center! Barb is always willing to go above and beyond to help us and the applicants. Today we had an applicant that needed some assistance with the MMI and Barb thought of everything to make sure this was a smooth process for her. We can't thank her enough!"