

UME NEWSLETTER

Letter from the UME office

08/01/2024

Dear Students, Faculty, and staff!

Summer is upon us, the days are long, and the weather is beautiful.

I hope everyone had some time to relax, recharge, and reflect. As we start a new academic year, I encourage you, students, to reflect on the challenges you have overcome, the lessons you have learned, and the people who have supported you along the way: faculty, staff, residents, medical professionals, family, and fellow students. Gratitude is an important part of your journey, and taking the time to appreciate the experiences that contribute to shape you into the physicians you are becoming, is crucial. It's important to remember to thank those who have supported you along this way (even if it is quietly), and to stay connected to the values and motivations that brought you to this point.

MS1: Our first-year medical students are set to begin classes. Welcome MS1s to your new home and to your new family! Please, support MS1s as they embark on this transformative journey in medicine.

MS2: On July 29th, we will welcome MS2 back as the new academic year begins. We wish you, MS2, a great third semester of pre-clerkship curriculum, and good luck with your preparation for Step 1 exam and beyond. Don't forget about all the resources that the University can offer you and please, take advantage of everything that can help you. We are here with you and for you! We hope you enjoy and strongly benefit of this time in your education!

MS3: In the academic year 2023-2024, our faculty and staff have really stepped up to deliver two curricula in parallel, our new curriculum and the "UP" curriculum, using creative and effective methods.

MS3s, you completed Phase 1 as the last cohort of the "UP" curriculum. These first two years provided you with the baseline knowledge and skills to enter the clerkship phase of your education. The third year of medical school is an exciting time when you immerse yourselves in each of the core disciplines of medicine, a unique, one-time opportunity during your educational journey. You leverage your knowledge, add to that additional knowledge and skills attained during these clerkships, and emerge with a well-rounded preparation for the practice of medicine.

Syracuse students are now at the end of Block B and settling in well into the clerkships. Binghamton students are finishing their first clerkship block after completing the integrated block.

As you, MS3, began your clinical rotations, I would like to join the faculty and staff in wishing you well as you start this next chapter in your medical training.

To our medical community, please remember that these new learners are excited to be joining you on your clinical services. Actively engage them in the care of patients! Welcome them to our family, support their education and professional growth, and we can all revel in their successes!

MS4: MS4 are preparing for residency applications by taking electives, acting internships and studying for Step 2 exam.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to our MS4 students for their hard work and dedication. Their commitment to education and the medical profession is truly inspiring, and we are honored to be part of their journey.

We are so proud of our students' accomplishments, a true evidence to their hard work and dedication during their time here at Norton College of Medicine. Best of luck to all of you!

Educators (Faculty, Curriculum Support Personnel, and Academic Support Personnel): I would like to thank everyone within our college community for their unwavering dedication in nurturing our students' growth and success. Your commitment to excellence and continuous improvement has propelled us to the forefront of medical education, and together, we will continue to enhance our offerings and empower every student on their journey toward residency and beyond. You are critical in providing a high-quality education. Know how much we appreciate and value your contributions!

It is important to remember that as a Medical Community, we must treat all around us, our patients, research participants, staff, residents, students, all our colleagues with respect. We aspire to have a learning environment within which everyone witnesses and experiences a sense of respect, collegiality, and cooperation. We ALL are responsible to create and maintain it!

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for reading this newsletter!

Sincerely,
Dana Mihaila, MD PhD
Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education



"Spread love everywhere you go.
Let no one ever come to you
without leaving happier."
– Mother Teresa



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[Google Maps & Directions](#)

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Hours:

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Our Mission Statement:

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

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.

For questions regarding this publication, please contact:
Dustin Tuttle
(TuttleDu@upstate.edu)

Extra! Extra!

Read more from:

Phase One,
Phase Two,
Binghamton Campus
Accreditation and
Compliance
Evaluation Assessment &
Research.

Phase 1



Dr. Rebecca Greenblatt



Dr. Rachel Hopkins

We are so grateful to the UME team and community preceptors who have stepped up to bring this great concept into reality and look forward to continuing to improve students' experiences in the course.
-Matt Sarsfield

Phase 1 welcomes the new medical students to Norton College of Medicine; we look forward to getting to know you all. To our returning students, we hope you had a wonderful and restful summer. The focus of this section of the newsletter is on the Longitudinal Clinical Preceptorship (LCP).

Two goals of the current curriculum renewal at the Norton College of Medicine are to: 1) enhance the student educational experience by “further integrating foundational and clinical sciences through a pre-clerkship clinical experience, and 2) increasing the use of experiential/active learning”. The Longitudinal Clinical Preceptorship was designed to address these two goals and took shape with support from Dean Chin, UME leadership, and most importantly, project manager Amber Gray. The Class of 2027 completed the first run of LCP in Semesters 1 and 2 with outpatient experiences. They will begin their Semester 3 inpatient experience in the coming days. Feedback from the outpatient portion of the course has been very positive. Students said they enjoyed seeing patients in the offices and being part of the team. We also sought and heard very constructive feedback from the students (THANK YOU!!) and are working on adjusting the course where appropriate and possible. Some students said that the communication of course goals to our preceptors could be improved. To address this, we will send a biweekly newsletter to our preceptors and students to provide guidance on working with the students, tips for keeping the students engaged and information regarding what the students are learning in the systems courses, POM, CAPD and FRM.

We are so grateful to the UME team and community preceptors who have stepped up to bring this great concept into reality and look forward to continuing to improve students' experiences in the course.

Matt Sarsfield, MD; LCP Course Director, Drs. Greenblatt and Hopkins

Phase 2

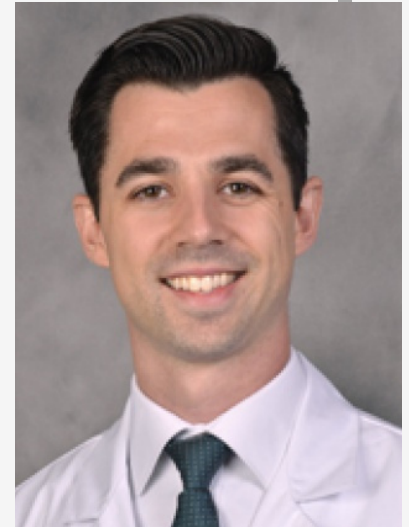
Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Our third-year students have been in clerkships since the end of May, and we are proud to see them involved in patient care and working alongside us in the clinical setting! This is our last class of students that will have clerkships starting in May, as future classes of students will have clerkships starting in March. In March 2025 we will have a period where the nearly-4th-year students overlap with the brand-new clerkship students for 10 weeks, as the curriculum transitions from the old schedule to the new schedule. This will continue to be discussed with the clerkship directors and administrators as far as strategies to ensure our learners still have adequate opportunities during that time. Although there will be additional clerkship students during that timeframe, there won't be any 4th year students in AIs or other 4th year rotations during that time. Our students doing clerkships in the 2025-2026 year will finish their clerkships 10 weeks earlier, allowing them additional time to prepare for application to residency – doing electives in specialties they are interested in, AIs, away rotations, and preparing for the USMLE Step 2 exam.

Our fourth-year students are preparing to apply to residency, participating in electives, acting internships, away rotations, and working to secure letters of recommendation. Residency applications will occur during the month of September, with programs able to start reviewing student applications at the end of September.

Thank you everyone for all your teaching, learning, and other educational efforts! We continue to be proud of the entire Upstate team, including all faculty, staff, and students.

Matt Mason, MD
SUNY-Upstate Medical University
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences, Norton College of Medicine
email: masonm@upstate.edu



Dr. Matthew Mason

Thank you everyone for all your teaching, learning, and other educational efforts! We continue to be proud of the entire Upstate team, including all faculty, staff, and students.
-Dr.Mason

Report Gold Star



Binghamton Campus

Greetings from the Binghamton Campus!

Student news: The Binghamton Campus welcomed 36 students from the class of 2026 on Tuesday May 28. They had four days of orientation, including introductions to our Binghamton Campus staff, UHS program directors and chief residents, community service and research opportunities, career advising, ACLS training, and tours of our academic building, Wilson Hospital, and surrounding areas. A highlight was visits from UHS residents (and Binghamton Campus alums) Katie Skolnick and Hannah Bender, who shared tips with the students.

Orientation was followed by our four-week integrated clerkship (IC) during which students spend a few days in each of the core clerkships, with large and small group didactic and skills sessions, and clinical blocks. We are looking forward to a great year with this terrific group!

Staff shout-outs: Dr. Chris Ryan is retiring at the end of this month, after 30 years with Upstate. He started as a Binghamton Campus student, served as a Family Medicine preceptor, became site director and clerkship director for FM, site director for Population Health, and since 2009 has been the Medical Director for the Broome County Health Department. Dr. Peter Ronan also is retiring. He was a student in the first Binghamton Campus class (1979-80), graduated from Upstate in 1981, did his residency in Internal Medicine at UHS, and has stayed with UHS and Upstate since. He has taught addiction medicine in the psychiatry clerkship. We thank Drs. Ryan and Ronan for their years of service to our campus, the university, and the Binghamton community.

Leann Lesperance, MD, PhD, FAAP (she/her)
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Binghamton Campus



Dr. Leann Lesperance, PhD



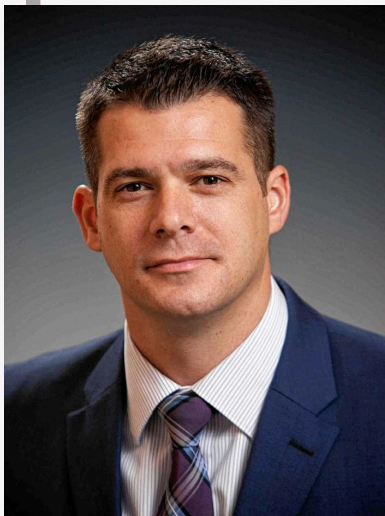
Binghamton class of 2026

Report Gold Star



Update from the Office of Accreditation and Compliance

As we begin a new academic year, the Office of Accreditation and Compliance is pleased to introduce the latest edition of our newsletter. This edition builds upon previous releases and aims to uphold the highest standards in medical education and practice. In the following articles, we explore various aspects that highlight our commitment to excellence and showcase how Upstate Medical University exemplifies the appropriate performance of LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) standards and elements.



Terry Pudney

Accreditation and Compliance



DID YOU KNOW?

College of Medicine Graduation Competencies and Educational Program Objectives (GC-EPOs)

At our medical school, the faculty, guided by the Curriculum Committee responsible for the medical curriculum, ensures that the curriculum aligns with formally adopted medical education program objectives. These objectives serve as statements of what students are expected to learn during their time at Upstate. They encompass knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes that demonstrate achievement and lay the foundation for further training. The six Graduation Competencies (GC-EPOs) at the College of Medicine—Patient Care (PC), Medical Knowledge (MK), Interpersonal and Interprofessional Communication Skills (IICS), Ethics and Professionalism (PR), Practice-Based Learning and Improvement (LI), and Systems-Based Practice and Population Health (PH)—form the basis for all course and clerkship objectives. You can find the complete list of GC-EPOs online and in course syllabi. As we plan for the 2024-25 academic year, remember that our learning goals and assessments revolve around these essential competencies.



Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ)

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important survey. Your valuable insights will contribute to shaping the future of medical education and the healthcare landscape.

The Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ) is a national questionnaire administered annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges to first-year medical students. The MSQ asks questions related to pre-medical experiences, medical school selection processes, future career interests, and educational debts and financing. Your responses will be analyzed and aggregated by the AAMC and provided back to Upstate for quality improvement purposes.

As of Tuesday, July 9, 2024, here is the current response rate to the 2024 AAMC Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ) for State University of New York Upstate Medical University Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine:

| SUNY Upstate-Norton | Total | Percent |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Completed | 23 | 12.8% |
| In Progress | 13 | 7.2% |
| Not Started | 144 | 80.0% |
| Total Eligible | 180 | 100% |

There is still time for those who have not started it or are still in progress. The MSQ will remain open through September 15.

Accreditation and Compliance

Looking for a policy or procedure?

Knowing how to access policies and procedures benefits students in numerous ways. It supports academic success, encourages personal responsibility, helps access vital support services, and enhances their overall college experience. Moreover, this knowledge prepares students for the responsibilities they will face in their future careers and equips them with essential skills for success beyond academia.

College of Medicine & Student Affairs policies can be found on the website:

[College of Medicine Policies and Procedures Website](#)
[Student Handbook Website](#)

AAMC Careers in Medicine

Upstate Medical University has an effective career advising system in place that integrates the efforts of faculty members, clerkship directors, and student affairs staff to assist medical students in choosing elective courses, evaluating career options, and applying to residency programs.

Choosing a medical specialty is a pivotal decision—one that significantly shapes your future. As competition for residency positions intensifies, strategic decision-making becomes crucial. That's where Careers in Medicine (CiM) steps in to assist you:

1. Personalized Assessment:

·CiM evaluates your interests, values, personality, and skills, helping you identify specialties that align with your unique attributes.

2. Comprehensive Information:

·Dive into the details of over 120 specialties:
·Explore salary expectations, lifestyle considerations, and training prerequisites.
·Understand the patient populations, procedures, and other defining characteristics of each specialty.

3. Qualification Comparison:

·Pinpoint your preferences for residency training.
·Compare programs to find the best fit for your goals.

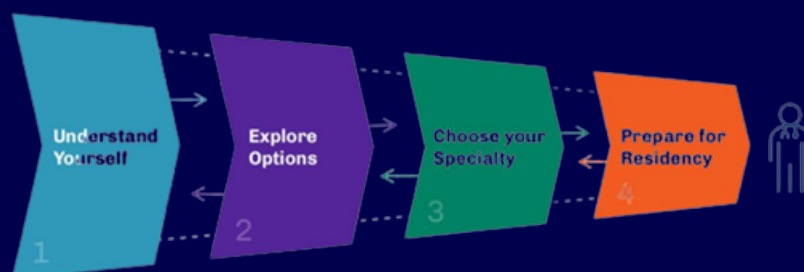
4. Boosting Competitiveness:

·CiM equips you to position yourself effectively, enhancing your chances of securing a residency spot.

5. Accessing CiM:

·Enjoy [free access](#) to CiM using your AAMC Account—the same credentials you used for the MCAT® exam, AMCAS®, and other AAMC services.
·If you encounter any sign-in issues, utilize the recovery tools provided in the [sign-in box](#).

CiM empowers you to make informed choices and navigate your medical career path with confidence.



Learning Environment

In efforts to monitor positive influences on the learning environment within the Norton College of Medicine, the Office of Undergraduate Medical Education provides several opportunities provide feedback on students, residents, faculty, and staff to highlight individuals who have enhanced their experience on campus.

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

[Exceptional Teacher Nominations](#) are accessible in MedHub in End-of-Course, End-of Clerkship, and Student Evaluations of Faculty & Residents evaluations for students interested in acknowledging faculty and residents that go above and beyond the call of duty!

During the 2023-24 academic year, we received more than 300 submissions from students on how their teachers provided them with an exceptional teaching experience. Themes included appreciation, positive learning environment, professionalism, and time spent teaching.

During the months of September through June, we highlight one teacher from the Exceptional Teacher Initiative which includes a poster that is displayed in the WSK display cabinet, broadcast on the Upstate TV, emailed to all COM faculty, and published in the quarterly UME [Newsletter](#) and on the Upstate [Website](#).

Thank you to the students who took the time to complete the end-of-course and end-of-clerkship evaluations to share your stories about teachers who have impacted or influenced you in a significant way! Please continue to do so. Thank you to our dedicated faculty who make a real impact on individual students and are a positive influence on the learning environment.

Gold Star Reports provides a mechanism to identify positive influences on professional standards and the learning environment. Please fill out this electronic form to highlight examples of faculty, students, or staff who have demonstrated exemplary professional behaviors.



Gold Star Nomination Form



Commendation Form



Report Gold Star

Recent Gold Star Recipients

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

★ Iyerus Tariku, MD | Internal Medicine Faculty ★

“Dr. Tariku exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding physician, consistently going above and beyond in her role. Her clinical acumen is exceptional, and she masterfully integrates teaching into her rounds, all while maintaining remarkable efficiency. Dr. Tariku dedicates extra time to ensure the team’s needs are thoroughly met, and she proactively provides detailed, thoughtful feedback. Her feedback is delivered in a positive, uplifting manner, fostering an environment where students can learn, improve, and aspire to become exceptional physicians themselves. Working with Dr. Tariku was an extraordinary culmination to the third-year clerkships, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated clinician and educator in Syracuse, guiding both students and residents.”

★ Dr. Grace Bisio, MD | Neurology Resident ★

“During this rotation, our first of the year, I was excited, but very nervous to see patients of my own. I felt a sense of imposter syndrome due to not yet having my Step 1 results, and I had little to no experience with Epic. In the course of a single week, Dr. Bisio got me up to speed with using this program, and taught me so many new things in such a short period of time, all the while fostering a learning environment in which I felt supported, respected, and excited for the next thing. My favorite example, which is so simple, yet so effective, was when she used her “finger” pointer to point out the things on the screen. With this one, seemingly silly tool, she was able to make things fun and lighthearted while keeping us focused and engaged. Another example was in the middle of our lunch break, when she walked up to us and asked us to pull a card from a deck of cards, which when turned over, gave us a positive and uplifting quote that helped elevate our moods and give us some inspiration to finish out the day. All in all, Dr. Bisio was an amazing mentor and I hope we get to spend more time with her throughout this rotation and beyond.”

★ Chelsea Corinaldi, MD | Psychiatry Resident ★

““Dr. Corinaldi helped myself and a fellow medical student adjust to the stress of third year. She took extra time to teach us how to use epic more efficiently and took the time to make sure she always explained our questions so we not only had an answer but understood the answer. She helped relate concepts seen in pre-clinical coursework to real patients and her insight was so valuable it really shaped my clerkship to a positive experience”

★ Maxence Gilles – Pediatrics Resident ★

“Maxence is the perfect teaching resident. She takes extra time to answer student questions, and she always willing to rephrase and repeat her answers when we are still confused. Maxence has continued to give advice and feedback on notes. She is kind and caring, and she treats us students with respect. She devotes her full attention to us students when needed. The learning environment is positive and encouraging, and this is all due to Maxence”.

Accreditation and Compliance

Important Policies for Your Review

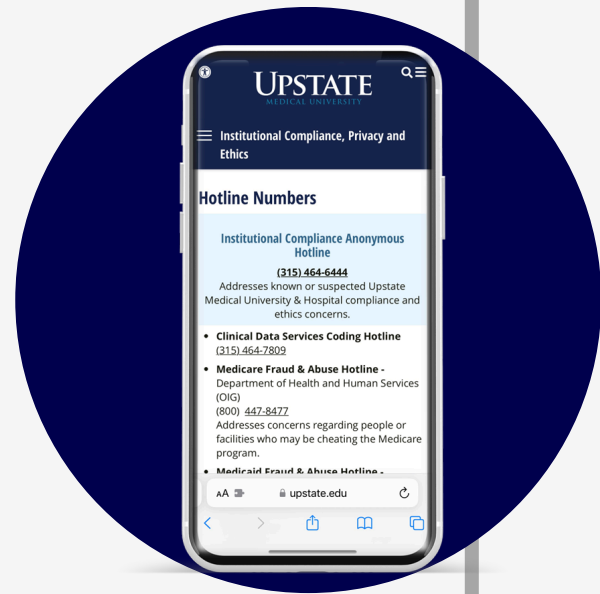
·Equal Opportunity, Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Title IX Policy [Link](#)

·Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy [Link](#)

·Harassment Prevention Policy [Link](#)

To have questions answered relating to discrimination concerns or to arrange an appointment, contact the Office of Institutional Equity at (315) 464-9590

To report an incident or concern [Link](#)



Upstate Institutional Compliance Anonymous Hotline

315 464-6444

The office of Compliance, Privacy and Ethics has been established to preserve the ethical and honest practice of all faculty and staff at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

The hotline is available for anyone to report a known or suspected Upstate Medical University & Hospital compliance and ethics concern. More about this hotline and other important numbers can be found on the [website](#).

Academic Affairs

Norton College of Medicine student's work earns fellowship

Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society, invites medical schools to nominate one student each year for the AΩA Carolyn Kuckein Student Research Fellowship. From all the nominations, around 50 students are selected to receive this distinguished award. The goal of the fellowship is to foster the development of the next generation of medical researchers.

For 2024, Zachary E. Williams, currently in his third year of medical school in Upstate Medical University's Norton College of Medicine, is one of the students selected for the prestigious fellowship. An Eagle Scout from Fairport, NY, Williams has been involved in medical research since his freshman days as an undergraduate at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Back then, he was using nuclear magnetic resonance to analyze interactions between proteins inside the eye. In the years since, Williams has continued his research work, even as he developed a greater interest in vascular medicine and vascular surgery.



Norton College of Medicine student Zachary Williams with his mentor, Anthony Cardella, MD, FRCS, of the Yale School of Medicine.

While pursuing that interest and thinking ahead to residency, Williams attended the Society for Vascular Surgery's Vascular Annual Meeting in Maryland in 2023. "It was my first exposure to the whole, big wide world of this field," reported Williams.

He learned a great deal while there. "There is something unique about vascular surgery in that it's a very niche and very small field, with only around 4,000 surgeons in the U.S. Those in academics are typically very social, as they all trained together or around the same time, with many of them remaining very close friends."

[Read more below](#)



Academic Affairs continued

At this event, he met Jonathan Cardella, MD, FRCS, an associate professor of surgery at the Yale School of Medicine. “It was actually the very last table that I stopped at, when they were sort of getting ready to close down the fair, and the people were packing up their tables and everything. I went over and just shook this guy’s hand and said, you know, ‘Hey I’m Zach, I’m interested in your program.’ He just looked at me with this excited grin, shook my hand in return, and told me how great Upstate was as a program.

Williams found himself drawn to Cardella’s expertise, but also his outgoing personality, his outlook on life and “his perspective on the balance between surgery and reality.”

“He became the kind of individual that I could really see myself emulating as a surgeon over the long term.”


From this chance meeting, Williams connected with Cardella to begin working on a project of his own design. Williams recounted having worked up three ideas he thought could work, proposing the first, followed by the second. He needn’t have worked on the third; Cardella took to the second idea immediately.

When it came time to develop a proposal for research that might win an AQA Student Research Fellowship, Williams considered his current project, and the proposals he had previously drafted for access to the patient database. He approached Cardella with the idea, and the two collaborated to further explore the potential of this work.

The research compared the outcome of 26,585 infrainguinal bypass grafting surgeries. Some were done with a vein from the leg being transplanted, some when a vein from an arm is transplanted and some when a vein from a cadaveric donor is used.

The third option had the lowest success rate, Williams said. He noted that as a foreign body, the donated vein (referred to as “cryovein” because it is kept frozen before the operation) is sometimes rejected. The leg vein, larger than the one taken from the arm, proved to be the most successful.

The AQA fellowship has a \$6,000 award, of which \$2,500 is paid when the award is announced, the rest to be paid out after receipts for the research work and a trip to conference or national meeting where the student can present their results. Each medical school may nominate only one student per year, so student applications are reviewed both at the medical school level and at the national level, which increases the quality of the selected projects as well as the competitiveness of the program.





The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching” program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.

Syed M. Ovais Hasan, MD, an assistant professor of Family Medicine at the Norton College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University, is the May 2024 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM HASAN’S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Hasan is an amazing teacher and mentor for medical students. He truly cares about medical student success and genuinely wants us to be the best physicians we can be. From the first day of working with him, he challenged me by asking about my understanding of big concepts. If I did not know the answer or only knew parts of concepts, he would take the time out of his busy schedule to go over topics and ensure I had a good understanding, then come back to those topics throughout the clerkship. I always felt comfortable asking for help or going to Dr. Hasan with questions, and he created an environment that encouraged questions. He was also interested in my future and gave me advice based on what I mentioned my interests were. I felt like he really cared about what I wanted and whether I succeeded, which was a nice feeling.” “Dr. Hasan was one of the best attendings to work with. He was enthusiastic when it came to teaching, provided a great learning environment, and was instrumental in my journey through medical school. I gained so much from this rotation. He helped me grow as a person and as a future physician. His care for his patients was phenomenal, and I can only hope to practice the way he does in the future. Overall, he is a fantastic physician and even better person. Any student who rotates with him is lucky to have the opportunity.”



L. Jade Archuleta, MD, a PGY-3 resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Upstate Medical University, is the May 2024 recipient of the Resident Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. ARCHULETA'S STUDENTS:

"Dr. Archuleta was a tremendous mentor. She consistently made sure medical students were involved in patient care, habitually talked through educational opportunities, and offered insight into professional routes someone could pursue in OB-GYN. Dr. Archuleta was a strong role model for both patient and interprofessional communication. In the little downtime she had she took the opportunity to help students through key physical exam skills they could not routinely perform including measuring cervical dilation and knot tying. I hope to be like Dr. Archuleta when I am a resident and future physician."

"Dr. Archuleta was by far the best resident teacher and mentor I interacted with during my OBGYN clerkships. She was thoughtful, kind, and approachable throughout my time during OB night shifts. Her interactions with patients really stood out as she was empathetic and always addressed every single patient's concern. She created a positive learning environment and would always answer questions in detail. She really cared about her students and would try her best to make them feel as comfortable as possible. I hope to be as empathetic and kind to others in practice as Dr. Archuleta was to those around her, including me."

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Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.

Sherrie LaFrance-Hale, PhD, an assistant professor of Cell and Developmental Biology at the Norton College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University, is the June 2024 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM LAFRANCE-HALE’S STUDENTS:

“Dr. LaFrance-Hale for the second time (first in Cardiovascular System, then in Respiratory System) went above and beyond organizing review sessions for students to learn gross anatomy. Recognizing teaching assistants are crucial to student success, but not available due to enjoying their pre-residency lives, Dr. LaFrance-Hale stepped up to help us when we needed it. Her explanations are always clear, kind, and repeated when asked. She empathizes with our struggle as medical students.”

“She is great. Cares about her students and makes sure we have the resources we need to Succeed. When the fourth-year wasn’t there for review, she sacrificed her own time to go over everything with us and recorded many informative videos that were relevant to the tested content. Does not feel like any of her material is a waste of time. Didn’t mind going back and explaining. Explanations are very good.”

“She is an amazing teacher; definitely one of the best professors here at Upstate. Dr. LaFrance-Hale is an amazing teacher and human being. She constantly makes me feel heard and is able to easily explain anything I am having trouble with. We love Dr. LaFrance-Hale!!”



The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching” program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.

Naveed Rahman, MD, a chief resident in the Department of Surgery at Upstate Medical University, is the June 2024 recipient of the Resident Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. RAHMAN’S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Rahman is one of the best doctors that I have ever worked with. During his time on vascular surgery, he regularly took time out to provide education and field any questions I had. He has excellent bedside manner. He does not engage in negative banter about work or colleagues. When on call, he is clearly happy to help. When on consult he advised me to remember that, “people are calling you because they need help.” He advocates for his patients and colleagues alike. Dr. Rahman encourages his students to try, fail and try again. He is never disrespectful or condescending to students or staff. He constantly gives positive feedback. His criticism is constructive and respectful. He is hands down one of the best physicians, residents, and human beings I have ever had the privilege to work with.”

“I had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Rahman during my rotation in general surgery, and he was hands down one of the best residents I have ever worked with. He was the epitome of professionalism, respectfulness, and genuine kindness, and this enriched my learning experience. His approachability and willingness to teach were also unparalleled, and he consistently went above and beyond to ensure that I not only understood the intricacies of surgical procedures but also grasped the underlying principles guiding patient care. He very much served as an inspiring role model, embodying the values of empathy and compassion in patient interactions. He reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career in surgery.”



Alina Mufti



Student Spotlight

While rotating on the Oncology team, MS3 IM Clerkship student Alina Mufti, noticed something about family meetings. "On the oncology floor, there are a lot of tearful family meetings. While some team members prepare for the family meeting, others don't know when (or even IF) a meeting will be taking place. This creates the potential for awkward or embarrassing moments for staff and families/patients when, amidst one of these solemn discussions, a nurse comes in and happily announces "Knock, knock, here for your vitals!" Alina witnessed this on her second day where she felt for the nurse who had to awkwardly leave and profusely apologize as well as the family who had their conversation about whether to initiate chemo for a second time interrupted. She checked in with the nurse who said that "it happened all the time and it makes everyone feel bad." The nurse said she would "love something as simple as a sign on the door that could notify staff that a private meeting was in progress" and so Alina did just that. She did it "for the members of the patient care team, for our patients and their families." Such a simple thing makes such a difference; Alina saw a problem, took initiative and solved it with a simple innovation that has been adopted by the Oncology team at Upstate. Wonderful work

Wellness Fair itinerary:

- ART THERAPY
- SOUND HEALING
- CUPPING AND GUA SHA
- MINDFULNESS TECHNIQUES
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFO
- AND MORE

SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR A FREE YOGA SESSION AT 4:30 OR 5:00.



PLAY GAMES
EAT, DRINK AND BE MINDFUL

GHHS Wellness Fair



STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES, COME JOIN THE GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY FOR THEIR ANNUAL WELLNESS FAIR!

TWENTY NINTH OF AUGUST, 2024
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
WH COURTYARD
IN PERSON EVENT
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Evaluation, Assessment & Research

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

Welcome, incoming MS1 students! We are thrilled to have you here. We're Dr. Lauren Germain and Ms. Josie Suser, from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment, and Research, and we work closely with your faculty and college leadership to develop methods for measuring student learning outcomes, ensuring our curriculum meets the highest standards. Our work includes analyzing the scoring patterns of exam questions, running statistical correlations between exams and quizzes to ensure alignment, and collaborating with faculty and leadership to understand cohort-level trends and identify potential interventions when needed.

We also oversee student evaluations for the College of Medicine. After each course and clerkship, you'll be asked to complete a few short evaluations. Your feedback is a critically important component of our commitment to continuous quality improvement. As you heard during orientation, your evaluations are read by faculty, staff, the accreditation office, as well as the deans and curriculum committee. Good evaluations are respectful, honest, and informative. While faculty members appreciate hearing that their course was 'great,' it's even more helpful if you can explain why it was great, e.g., 'The course was great because the materials were clear and the small group discussions were helpful.' All your evaluations will be conducted through MedHub: upstate.medhub.org. If you encounter any issues logging into MedHub or accessing your evaluations, please let us or Kristen Vella (vellak@upstate.edu) know.

Congratulations to our returning MS2 students! We hope your summer break was restful and restorative. As you resume your studies, we encourage you to reflect on whether your exam performance is meeting your expectations. MS2 performance is statistically linked with successful Step 1 performance, so if you have concerns, we highly encourage you to reach out to academic support or your basic science advisor. Thank you all for completing your evaluations last year. Your insights were invaluable, and you will undoubtedly see changes made to the curriculum this year because of your feedback.

And, of course, we would be remiss not to congratulate and praise our MS3 class! We hope your clerkship year is off to a great start. You have truly hit the ground running, and we have heard wonderful things about your performance so far. Your faculty and clerkship teams are deeply committed to your success, and as of mid-July, there have already been 1,166 faculty/resident evaluations of students submitted. We sit on the MSIII Evaluation Taskforce, chaired by Dr. Mason and Ms. Bellini, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about how the evaluations are scored or how they factor into your overall grade. Please continue to take the shelf exam practice tests provided to you through each clerkship seriously and seek guidance if you are unsure about your performance.

Best regards,
Dr. Lauren Germain and Ms. Josie Suser



Dr. Lauren Germain



Ms. Josie Suser

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Report Gold Star





get to know us better.

Janelle Zombolo, UME Project Manager



Favorite movie:

The Count of Monte Cristo.

Dream vacation:

Bali.

Favorite quotes:

"if you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency, and vibration." - Nikola Tesla

Who is your hero?:

I don't have a specific hero in mind, but to me, heroes are individuals who pursue their truth, despite the difficulties, even when it challenges the status quo

What always makes me smile:

My little ones, Cam and Scarlett ♥

Holly Horn, Director of Student Affairs Binghamton Campus

What's your favorite Movie or Show?

Movie: While You Were Sleeping; Best TV show ever: The West Wing

What's your dream vacation location?

Alaska cruise + Denali

Favorite quotes?

"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."
(Steven Covey)

Who is your hero?

Heather Cox Richardson - I read her "Letters from an American" daily and am in awe of her dedication and service

What is something that always makes you smile?

Air conditioning. Definitely air conditioning. And baby giggles.

