

UME NEWSLETTER

Letter from the UME office

05/01/2024

Dear Students, Faculty, and staff!
Greetings from the UME Office!

In March, I was appointed Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. I am very enthusiastic to continue to work with all of you! I have worked with faculty, administrators, and first- and second-year medical students for the last 13 years, as faculty and Course Director. I am excited to work now with students from all four years and more faculty in Syracuse and Binghamton.

Every year, April/May is a busy time for the Norton College of Medicine, but 2023-2024 academic year is particularly unique.

- Class of 2024 is graduating and moving on to residencies or other pursuits. Congratulations to the Class of 2024!
- Clerkship students are finishing up, taking Step 2, and doing electives.
- Second year students are taking Step 1 and starting clerkships. They are the last cohort in the UP curriculum, which formed more than 1500 great physicians that we are proud of. Congratulations to Dr. Tom Poole, for being a designer and a leader of the UP Curriculum on its entirety.
- First year students are experiencing the renewed curriculum, new longitudinal clinical experiences, sessions delivered through active learning modalities, POCUS hands-on activities, and many other exciting experiences.

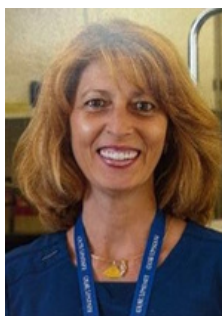
Our curriculum will continue to evolve and grow. Please know that during all this change, one thing remains constant - our commitment to you, our students and to your formation as future physicians and valuable members of the community. Our goal is to create an environment where you all can learn to the best of your ability and to lay the building blocks for you to become the best physicians and surgeons that you can be.

Having in mind that it is always room for improvement, we invite all students, faculty, and staff, to share their thoughts and give us their input.

There are many exciting and innovative changes that our team has been working on, both for the 2024-2025 Academic Year, and beyond. We will be happy to hear your ideas.

If you have questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As many of you know, my door is always open. Your participation and feedback are especially welcome!

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



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
-Mahatma Gandhi



Contact Info

www.upstate.edu/ume

Suny Upstate Medical University
Undergraduate Medical Education Office
Setnor Academic Building
Suite 4508
766 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210

[Google Maps & Directions](#)

Phone: 315 464-3826
Fax: 315 464-6025
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:
Susan (Anderssu@upstate.edu)

Extra! Extra!

Congratulations class
of 2024!!!

Read more from:

Phase One,
Phase Two,

Binghamton Campus
Accreditation and Compliance
Evaluation Assessment &
Research.

Phase 1

Phase 1 at the Norton College of Medicine (NCOM) this year has been a whirlwind, with first-year students blazing the trail of our new curriculum while the MS2s completed the final year of the UP Curriculum. Both groups of students have stepped up to be our design partners, trying out new active learning sessions and new software tools, then providing valuable feedback.

Congratulations to Dr. Tom Poole, who named the UP Curriculum, and served as the Assistant Dean for the Foundational Sciences for its entire nine-year run!

Looking back on the first year of the new curriculum, we are reviewing the effect of new software innovations locally and at the SUNY level.

Just before the new curriculum rolled out, the SUNY system chose BrightSpace as a centrally-supported learning management system. At SUNY Upstate, this meant transitioning from BlackBoard to BrightSpace. There were a few bumps along the way, but with the support of Dr. Pamela Youngs-Maher and Kristen Flint, our instructional design specialists past and present, the transition moved ahead and has been an upgrade. BrightSpace has been particularly appreciated by those who need to access the learning management system on smartphones and tablets. Mobile functionality was a weak spot for BlackBoard.

Meanwhile and at the urging of our students, Dean Lawrence Chin arranged for every student and course director in the Norton College of Medicine to have access to UWorld. UWorld has long been prized by students as the gold-standard study-question tool to help them prepare for the Step 1 exam. Using central funding to be sure that every NCOM student preparing for Step 1 has UWorld access is an important step toward the college's equity goals. UWorld access for course directors has also been an important innovation. Faculty are finding that the complex UWorld study questions, and their lengthy rationales, are helpful elements for teaching and assessment.

Another important software purchase that NCOM made to support the new curriculum is the InteDashboard software for Team-Based Learning. InteDashboard facilitates participation and grading of Team Based Learning exercises (TBL) for large numbers of small groups of students working simultaneously. The software administers the IRAT and TRAT quizzes in the first half of a TBL session, and collects students' responses to application questions and peer reviews in the second half. Our instructors' favorite InteDashboard function is its ability to track students' progress and relative success during a quiz, in real-time. This tracking is extremely useful in a large classroom, enabling professors to move on as soon as the last quiz is submitted, and to immediately see which questions were the most challenging. Our faculty are so enthusiastic about this function that they've begun using InteDashboard even for quizzes that are not part of TBL exercises.

Thank you to Dean Chin, Mary Ann Grandinetta, Tom Poole, Theresa Stowell, Amber Gray, Steve Doles, Kristen Flint, Stephanie Langer-Liblick, and the rest of the teams that selected and are still supporting these technological innovations.

Speaking of support, the Phase 1 course coordinators have been indispensable during our curriculum transition. They have learned the new software, kept the course BrightSpace pages organized and updated, launched the morning sessions and recordings, responded promptly to emails from students, and proctored our assessments for hours on end. THANK YOU Wendi Burnette, Emma Callahan-Brittain, Sarah Clawson, Sandy Jarvis, Lizel Stover, Bri Supensky, and to everyone at the UME Office who pitched in to help them!!

Wishing everyone a sunny Spring,
Drs. Greenblatt and Hopkins



Dr. Rebecca Greenblatt



Dr. Rachel Hopkins



Dr. Thomas Poole

Phase 2

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Congratulations to the class of 2024! We are very proud of the work they have done over the past several years. We welcome them as colleagues and wish them the best of luck in their residency programs.

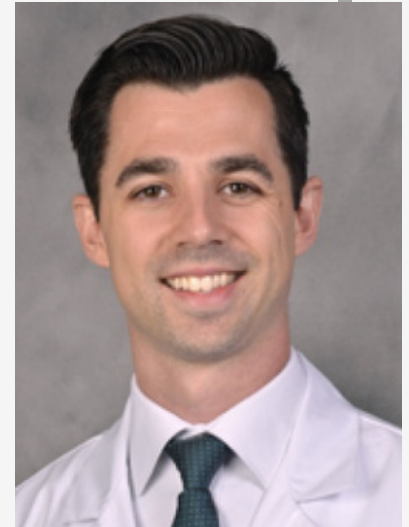
Our third-year students transition to the start of their fourth-year this month. Over the next few months they will be working on 4th-year level experiences before applying to residency, including taking the USMLE Step 2 exam and participating in fourth-year electives and acting internships. Many of our students will be participating in away rotations at other institutions.

Residency applications through the ERAS system will become available for residency programs to view at the end of September. As seen last year, this class is applying to residency without a numerical USMLE Step 1 score, so the Step 2 exam is of increased importance. We anticipate that the NRMP will release data about outcomes in the match this summer that will help us understand the impact of the transition of Step 1 to a pass/fail result on residency application and matching.

The class of 2026 has been spending dedicated time studying for the USMLE Step 1 exam and will start orientation to the MS3 year on May 20, 2024. This week of orientation will include things like overview of clerkships and learning in the clinical setting, orientation to the OR and sterile environment, EMR use, ACLS training, physical examination skills, and education on how to function in the clinical environment. The new year of clerkships starts on May 28.

Thank you everyone for all your continued time and effort!

Matthew D. Mason, MD, FAAP
SUNY-Upstate Medical University
Assistant Professor and Chief of Pediatric Urology,
Department of Urology
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences, Norton College of
Medicine
email: masonm@upstate.edu



Dr. Matthew Mason

Congratulations to the class of 2024! We are very proud of the work they have done over the past several years. We welcome them as colleagues and wish them the best of luck in their residency programs.
-Dr.Mason

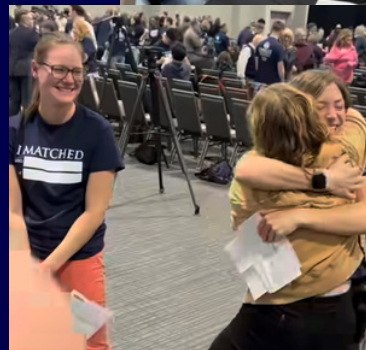
Report Gold Star



Match Week 3/11/2024



Fourth-year med students at Upstate, and across the country, opened envelopes to find out the city in which they will spend their first year of training.



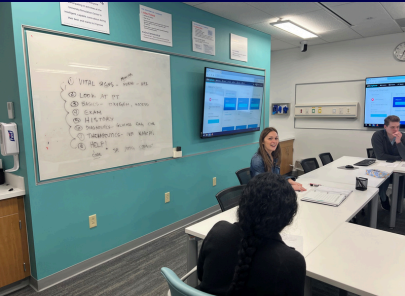
Photos and comment from Upstate Instagram

Transition into Residency

The Transition to Residency Course that just completed in March, marks the 9th year of holding the course. The course was designed to minimize the residency readiness differential and ensure our graduating medical students feel competent and confident in starting their intern year. A new program called TLLT : Teaching to Learn, Learning to Teach, was incorporated this year to promote and prepare students for their upcoming roles as teachers. Students were tasked with developing an educational product in small groups that they could present and teach to their peers (see upper right and lower panels). Transition to Residency course involves simulations, small group sessions, and team-based learning that would not be possible without voluntary faculty committed to medical student education. This year, more than 70 faculty and 30 residents and fellows helped with this course. We cannot thank you enough!



Dubbed by MedHub TLLT group delivering their presentation on effective evaluations and feedback.



Dr. Risa Farber-Heath leading a prebrief discussion prior to an unstable vital signs simulation.

Winning TLLT group with final judges: team Code Blue taught how to identify, avoid, and disclose mistakes.

Winning TLLT group with final judges: presented on reforming annoying medical students.



Director
Dr. Risa Farber-Heath



Director
Dr. Michaela Kollisch-Singule



Binghamton Campus

Greetings from the Binghamton Campus!

Student Transitions: Our fourth-year students did well in the match, getting positions in a variety of fields, including Peds, ENT, FM, Ortho, Psych, IM, Med/Peds, ObGyn, Neuro, EM, surgery, and anesthesiology, and in places near and far. We wish them well as they transition to residency.

We also wish the current third-year students our best as the 2023-2024 clerkship year draws to a close. Several Binghamton students will be staying in Binghamton for their fourth year. Popular Binghamton electives include Acting Internship in Family Medicine FAMPI659, Neonatal-Perinatal Acting Internship PEDS5610, Palliative Care FAMPI647, and Infectious Disease MDCN2180. See the course selection book for details.

We are excited that our incoming students will have the opportunity to work with three UHS Family Medicine residents (two PGY2s and one PGY1) who were Binghamton Clinical Campus students.

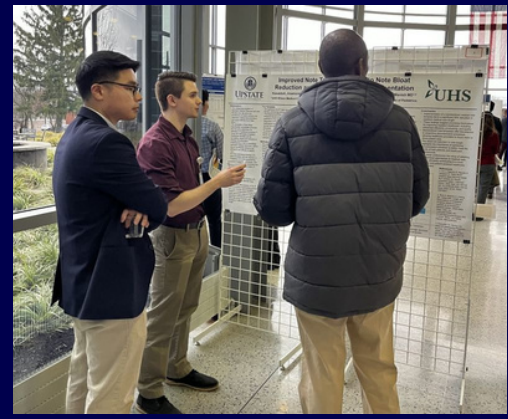
BBRC: On April 4, the Binghamton Campus hosted its 16th Annual Binghamton Biomedical Research Conference, highlighting student, resident and faculty research from the Binghamton Campus, Binghamton University, UHS, Guthrie Lourdes Hospital, and other Southern Tier organizations. The turnout was excellent, with 61 posters and two terrific podium presentations. Planning is already underway for next year's event.

Staff Shout-outs: Also on April 4, the Binghamton Campus welcomed a new staff member, Rebecca Rafferty. We are excited to have her join our team! She has been training with the psychiatry clerkship and will be its clerkship administrator starting with the 24-25 academic year, which starts on Tuesday May 28. Julia Milewski returned from her family leave on April 17 to her Academic Program Manager position. She will be working with the clerkship administrators.

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



Dr. Leann Lesprance



16th Annual Binghamton Biomedical
Research Conference

Report Gold Star



Gold Humanism Honor Society

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation was founded in 1988 to support humanism in healthcare for all.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation champions humanism in healthcare, which we define as compassionate, collaborative, and scientifically excellent care. This Gold standard of care embraces all and targets barriers to such care. We empower experts, learners, and leaders to together create systems and cultures that support humanistic care for all.



SAVE *the* DATE

23RD ANNUAL STUDENT CLINICIAN
CEREMONY.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE &
PROMOTING ROLE MODELS.

29 TH OF MAY, 2024

GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY
INDUCTION CEREMONY 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION NAB 4414

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: *Dustin Tuttle*
TUTTLEDU@UPSTATE.EDU

Congratulations New Inductees!

Class of 2025

Abhishek Doshi
Belinda Tang
Sonny Pohar
Danya Contreras
Ethan Fung
Rohan Gupta
Charles Shi
Nicholas Vazquez
Jessie Dobler
Serena Schmitt
Jewel Estrella
Katie Farkouh
Adrian Temnycky
Rachel Aber
Hallie Buddendeck
Narayan Kovil
Kate Nam
Julia Natoli
Ciara Guzman
Ismat Zerin
Angela Gupta
Noelle Ortiz
Rashmi Rege
Justin Lui
Christine Zhang
Isabelle Thenor-Louis
Michael Lin
Anthony Lopez

Faculty/Attendings:

Dr. Mustafa Awayda
Medicine

Dr. John Cannizzaro
Orthopedics

Dr. Ian Dargon
Pediatrics

Residents:

Dr. Yung-Tain Gau
Neurology

Dr. Christopher Woodard
Emergency Medicine

Dr. Sahib Laskar
Surgery

Update from the Office of Accreditation and Compliance

As we embark on another exciting chapter in our journey toward excellence in medical education, the Office of Accreditation and Compliance is delighted to present the latest edition of our newsletter. This edition builds on previous editions and is a testament to our unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical education and practice.

In the following articles, we delve into various aspects that underscore our dedication to excellence and highlight how Upstate Medical University demonstrates appropriate performance of LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) standards and elements.



Terry Pudney

Accreditation and Compliance



DID YOU KNOW?

AAMC Graduation Questionnaire (GQ)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the 76 students who have already completed the AAMC Graduate Questionnaire as of Tuesday, April 23rd. Your valuable feedback is essential, and we eagerly await the insights you've shared. The official feedback report will be available in August 2024.

For those who haven't yet participated, fear not! The questionnaire will remain open until the first week of June. We encourage you to take a few moments to complete it. Your input matters!

Important Reminders:

- The most recent reminder was sent on April 15 to eligible participants who haven't completed the GQ.
- Expect the next reminder on May 1.
- Private and individualized links are emailed to those expected to graduate between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

🎉 Congratulations to the GQ Sweatshirt Giveaway Winners from the Class of 2024:

- Jennifer Cheung
- Hanish Polavarapu
- Natalie Lebedko
- Joanna Berg
- Cailey Walton

Your active participation is deeply appreciated! Keep shining, and thank you for contributing to the future of medical education. 🌟🙌

Below you will find reminders on how to report negative behaviors and more can be found by visiting our [website](#)

Accreditation and Compliance

Important Policies for Medical Students Regarding Infectious and Environmental Hazards

At our medical school, we prioritize your safety and well-being. To ensure that you are well-prepared, we have established policies that address exposure to infectious and environmental risks. Here are the key points:

1. Education on Prevention Methods:

- We provide comprehensive training to all medical students on effective methods to prevent exposure to infectious diseases and environmental hazards.
- You'll learn about hygiene practices, protective measures, and infection control protocols.

2. Care and Treatment Procedures After Exposure:

- In the event of exposure, we have clear procedures in place.
- These include guidelines for seeking medical attention, reporting incidents, and understanding financial responsibilities related to treatment.

3. Impact on Learning Activities:

- We recognize that infectious or environmental conditions can affect your ability to participate in learning activities.
- Our policies consider accommodations and adjustments to support your learning journey.

4. Transparency and Communication:

- All registered medical students, including visiting students, receive detailed information about these policies.
- Before engaging in any educational activities that may pose risks, you'll be informed and aware.

Remember: Prevention is Key! As you begin your clinical experiences, rest assured that you are equipped to prevent exposure and respond appropriately if needed.

Related Policies:

[Student Occupational Health Exposure](#)

[ESH Blood Body Fluid Exposure Follow-Up](#)

[Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan](#)

Upstate Medical University provides Access to Service-Learning/Community Service Opportunities

Upstate Medical University believes in nurturing not only exceptional medical professionals but also compassionate citizens. As part of our commitment to holistic education, we are thrilled to provide you with access to service-learning and community service opportunities.

Here's what you need to know:

1. Service-Learning and Community Engagement:

- Our programs go beyond textbooks and clinical rotations. They empower you to engage with real-world challenges.
- By participating in service-learning, you'll learn while making a positive impact on the community.

2. The Center's Role:

- The [Center for Community Engagement Learning \(CEL\)](#) is your gateway to meaningful experiences.
- We administer approved programs that align with your educational journey.

3. Examples of CEL Programs:

- Health Clinics Outreach: Serve underserved populations by volunteering at local clinics.
- Health Education Initiatives: Educate community members about preventive health measures.
- Community Health Fairs: Participate in events that promote wellness and awareness.

4. Stay Updated:

- For an up-to-date list of approved CEL opportunities, visit our [NobleHour](#) portal.

Remember, your involvement matters. Together, we can make a difference!

Accreditation and Compliance

Ensuring Safety and Security: A Guide for Medical Students

Your safety and well-being are paramount to us. As part of our commitment to providing a secure learning environment, we want you to feel safe both on our medical school campus and at clinical sites. Here's how we ensure your security:

1. On-Campus Security Systems:

o Regular Classroom Hours:

- During class hours, our campus security team maintains a visible presence.
- Security personnel patrol buildings, parking lots, and common areas.
- Emergency call boxes ("Blue Light Phones") are strategically placed for immediate assistance.
- Access control systems limit entry to authorized personnel.

o Outside Regular Hours:

- Even after class hours, security remains vigilant.
- Well-lit pathways and parking lots enhance safety.
- Security escorts are available upon request.
- Surveillance cameras monitor key locations.

o Clinical Teaching Sites:

- We collaborate closely with clinical partners to maintain safety.
- Security protocols align with hospital policies.
- In high-risk areas (e.g., emergency departments, and detention facilities), additional measures are in place.
- Faculty and staff guide students on safety during patient interactions.

2. Emergency Preparedness:

- o Education: We educate all students and faculty on emergency and disaster preparedness.
- o Policies and Plans: Institutional policies are accessible [online](#).
- o Notifications: In emergencies, we use multiple channels (email, text, announcements) to inform the community promptly.

3. Crime Prevention Tips:

o Four Basic Rules:

- Stay Alert
- Keep your mind on your surroundings, who is in front of you, and who is behind you. Don't get distracted.
- Walk purposefully, stand tall, and make eye contact with people around you.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, leave.

o Blue Light Phones:

- Familiarize yourself with the locations of the "Blue Light Phones" on campus.
- Don't hesitate to use one if you believe you are possibly in danger.
- The phones ring directly into the University Police Department and a code shows which campus phone is activated.
- An Officer is dispatched to assist and check the area.
- Use foyer phones in the entryways of buildings to alert University Police to problems.

Remember, you are part of a supportive community. Together, we create a safe and secure environment for learning and growth.

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



Report Gold Star

Recent Gold Star Recipients

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

★ Caroline Johnson – Class of 2025 ★

“Caroline demonstrated exceptional dedication to my care as a patient at Upstate. Specifically, she acted as effective advocate on my behalf securing a connection with specialized care at the Cleveland Clinic, overcoming obstacles to securing an appointment there. Additionally, because of her caring professionalism and positive attitude she was instrumental in making me feel better overall, even helping me regain appetite that had eluded me for months.”

★ Dr. Michaela Kollisch-Singule ★

“Dr. Kollisch joined the Transition to Residency course team this year and enthusiastically jumped in. Dr. Kollisch became involved in every aspect of the course from recruiting faculty/residents, to facilitating sessions, and preparing lectures. While doing all of this Dr. Kollisch was still active clinically and involved in research. She is an amazing example of what it is to be a physician educator. Dr. Kollisch was critical to the success of the course.”

★ Rachel Aber – Class of 2025 ★

“Rachel and I have worked together in a variety of settings since she started medical school almost three years ago, she is finishing her third year now. She never ceases to amaze me. Her energy, motivation and enthusiasm are spectacular. No matter what the task Rachel completes it immediately and does a superb job. Poverello Clinic is a place where people who have no insurance get free medical care. She spent countless hours helping to revamp the entire clinic and started a service learning group there so now many medical students go there to volunteer. Rachel played a vital role in my diabetes SPECIAL elective. She was able to bring the class to a much higher level with her outstanding ideas and dedication to helping our patients with diabetes. Rachel says YES to whatever I ask her to do, is never too busy no matter what is on her own to do list. Rachel treats everyone with respect and is a role model for all who know her. She did a wonderful job of presenting at the Social Justice conference, the audience learned a lot and appreciated her honesty and knowledge. In my 30 years teaching and practicing at Upstate I have never known a student who can think as clearly as Rachel, who can finish any challenging task she faces, who has the drive to make the world a better place and does it all with a big smile on her face. She brightens our world at Upstate and will become a doctor who truly helps make a huge difference in the medical community.

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



The ΑΩΑ junior elections for the Class of 2025 were held on April 10, 2024. Please join me in congratulating the newly elected members!

**Robyn Anderson
William Borchert
Hallie Buddendeck
Mia DiFrancesco
Abhishek Doshi
Katie Faroukh
Alexis Gursky
Ciara Guzman
Jacqueline Hogan
Lorie Kim
Sarah Malik
Megan Marte
John Panzone
Sarah Papa
Sonny Pohar
Rashmi Rege
Nabeel Saif
Hansen Tai**

**Patty Gooden
ΑΩΑ Upstate Chapter Administrator**



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.

Amy Brown, MD, MSc, MSCS, an associate professor of Bioethics and Humanities and Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University, is the March 2024 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. BROWN’S STUDENTS:

I had many moments where I felt conflicted during a case. For example, when my cultural values clashed with some things that my peers or most of Western medical culture would consider ethical or moral, I liked that the professor did not try to establish a right or wrong in our discussion but instead just created space for everyone to share their opinions, which highlighted the complexity of these ethical cases and, for me personally, highlighted the importance of self-reflection (especially coming from another culture) and the importance of cultural competency.

Dr. Brown is fantastic; it is truly a pleasure to have her as a P2P facilitator. I have learned a lot through our various sessions, and the classes consistently help bring awareness to issues I may not have thought about in depth. I think that Dr. Caruso-Brown asks great, open-ended questions and gives us time to think about and work through these complex cases. I think she creates a low-stress environment conducive to discourse, which is what I enjoy most. I genuinely look forward to this class.

Dr. Amy Caruso-Brown was a fantastic facilitator; she was kind, highly skilled at navigating complex ethical situations, and fostered a low-stress learning environment. I learned a great deal about ethical situations and their implications.



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Gary Mana, MD, a PGY-5 resident in the Department of Surgery at Upstate Medical University, is the March 2024 recipient of the Resident Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. MANA’S STUDENTS:

Gary was a phenomenal mentor and role model. He challenged me in the operating room to improve upon my surgical skills. He took the time to sit down and hold a mini-suture clinic when we had a few hours of free time. On rounds, he would take time to talk about the management of different patients who we were seeing and often asked me to come up with plans for our patients, thus expanding my clinical knowledge. He was respectful to patients, other staff members, faculty, and students alike. He created a safe, comfortable learning environment for everyone on the team. Treats students with respect. Despite being out of medical school for several years now, he still remembers and understands the perspective of being a student and what would be beneficial for us. He creates a great environment both in and out of the OR. Has a lot of knowledge. Great teacher.

Gary was such a great role model and teacher to me during my transplant surgery clerkship! I looked forward every day to my transplant clerkship because Gary’s demeanor, humor, and overall good spirits made the clerkship fun for me. I’m also so grateful to Gary for taking the time to include me in different learning activities, from rounds to the OR. He took the time to get to know me and made me feel like my presence wasn’t an inconvenience. He also answered any questions I had in a clear and relatable way. I could tell he remembered being in my shoes as a third year medical student, and I appreciated all the academic and life advice he gave me. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors!



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.

Eric Beck, MD, a PGY-3 resident in the Department of Neurology at Upstate Medical University, is the April 2024 recipient of the Resident Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. BECK’S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Eric Beck is beloved by colleagues within the residency program, the neurology department, other services, and throughout the hospital by nurses and staff. He was also very much loved medical students. I had the privilege of observing Dr. Beck manage a long list of patients, which he handled with grace, efficiency and skill. It was amazing to see him complete a chart review to gain an in-depth understanding of the patient’s history and present complications before promptly contacting the primary team to provide additional care. On top of this, he was teaching on every case. Dr. Beck takes great joy in teaching, and he does it with grace and humility. If we got any questions wrong, he would simply say “close!” and then quickly help us to identify our knowledge gaps and overfill them, along with providing memory aids to make it stick. I had a lot of fun learning directly from Dr. Beck during these teaching sessions, and learning through observation of his neurologic evaluation patients, remarkable bedside manner, and efficient management of a busy schedule. This was an experience that I will not forget. This resident is an absolute legend in regard to clinical knowledge, teaching skills, bedside manner and efficient management of a long list of complicated patients.”

“Dr. Eric Beck challenged me to become the best version of myself each and every day of my clerkship. He started each day with a positive attitude that permeated to everyone on the team.”



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.

Oneeb Ahmad, MD, a clinical assistant professor of Internal Medicine at the Norton College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University, is the April 2024 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM AHMAD’S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Ahmad was a wonderful attending to work under. He was very clear on his expectations of his students and directed many questions toward us and let us try to answer before asking the residents. He never made us feel bad if we did not know the answer. He made sure to tell us if there was a patient with an interesting physical exam finding and took us around to see patients with him. He made sure we did mini-CEX with him before we even brought it up, and he let us perform them on patients we had been following so we had already built a good relationship with them.”

“He was an excellent teacher and gave me actionable feedback. I learned so much from him. He gave me candid advice about applying IM, pros + cons, etc. and was very encouraging. He knew I struggled with abnormal heart + lung sounds and went out of his way to point out to me patients with these issues. I hope to be just like him when I am an attending.”

“Wonderful and amazing as both a teacher and physician. Dr. Ahmad is an incredible role model and took time after the end of my rotation to talk to me about his personal experience.”

Evaluation, Assessment & Research

Greetings from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research,

We are in the midst of a very busy Spring and are excited to share what we've been working on. Along with Drs. Mihaila, Cleary, Welsh, Dhamoon, Mason, Ms. Chambers Mr. Ruiz and medical student Belida Tang, we have recently submitted an AMA grant application to study the effects of Growth Mindsets with respect to medical student performance. Additionally, Drs. Greenblatt, Duncan, Maimone and Ms. Suser submitted an abstract to present their work at the AMSMIC Education Workshop in July.

Percent of Graduating Class



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!!!!!!

We are so proud of your success, and it has truly been a privilege to get to know and work with so many of you. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the graduating students who completed the Pre-Match Day survey, confiding in us their top 5 residency programs they hoped to match into. Thanks to that data, we are excited to be able to report that, of the 65 students who completed the survey (46% of the class) an impressive 70% of the class matched into one of their top 3 residency programs and 80% matched into one of their top 5 residency programs!!

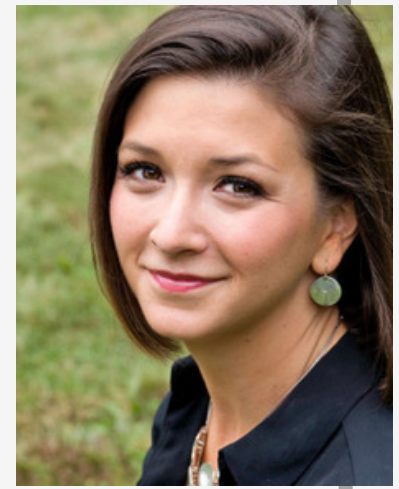
Class of 2025: Over the past 9+ years, we have administered the Away Elective Survey to graduating students, gathering crucial insights for those considering an away elective. We encourage you to take a moment to review this report as you begin navigating the away elective process. [Your paragraph text](#)

Pre-clerkship Students: Our office collaborates closely with COM leadership to help analyze and interpret formative exam results, such as the Kaplan Diagnostic and the CBSE. Both exams are strongly correlated with Step 1 success. If you are concerned with your progress on these exams, we strongly encourage you to reach out to Maryann Grandinetta from Student Success. GrandinM@upstate.edu

End of Year Surveys: At the end of each academic year, we request students' participation in a brief Medhub survey to gather insights from their experiences over the past year. This survey holds significant importance for college leadership as it not only contains crucial accreditation questions but helps guide curricular change. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing feedback provided via Medhub surveys at the conclusion of each course/clerkship, and we extend our gratitude in advance for your participation in the end-of-year survey.

We hope you all have lovely summers!

Ms. Josie Suser & Dr. Lauren Germain



Dr. Lauren Germain



Ms. Josie Suser

“CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!!!!!!”

Report Gold Star





get to know us better.

Dr. Ashwini Ashwath-Krishnamurthy



Favorite movie:

The Shawshank Redemption

Dream vacation:

I envision my ideal spot as a place where I can dive into crystal-clear waters, relax on sandy beaches, bask in the sunshine surrounded by palm trees, with no buildings in sight.

Favorite quotes:

"Knowledge is power." – Francis Bacon, "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." – Mother Teresa

Who is your hero?:

My dad is my ultimate role model and a constant inspiration to me.

What always makes me smile:

My cat Garfield, fresh flowers, catching up with friends, and a good book.

Dustin Tuttle, Undergraduate Medical Education Coordinator

What's your favorite Movie or Show?

Movie: The Addams Family 1&2, TV Series: Will and Grace & Madmen.

What's your dream vacation location?

Capri, Italy.

Favorite quotes?

"A life lived in fear, is a life half lived." –Baz Luhrmann
"You just imagine good things happening, and then you make them happen-Vida Boheme

Who is your hero?

My sister Brittany.

What is something that always makes you smile?

Acts of kindness, specifically, the kindness videos, where someone is giving compliments to people on the street.

