

Upstate Medical University Undergraduate Medical Education Office NEWSLETTER

AUGUST
2023

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

Letter from the UME Office

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



Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Greetings from the UME Office! We welcome everyone and especially our incoming students, who started in July.

The class of 2028 is the first to experience the Norton College of Medicine's updated curriculum that has been in development for the past few years. In response to student feedback, it includes early clinical experience and increased active learning sessions, along with expanded Health Systems Science content. Phase one retains its organ-based units but in a more efficient single pass, offering additional time in phase 2 (clerkships and electives) and an accelerated pathway option for interested students.

I extend my sincere thanks to the many UME faculty and staff who worked countless hours to bring this revised curriculum into being. While our recent effort involved several large changes, curriculum renewal is an ongoing process. We welcome feedback at any point, so we can continue to improve. Please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions or concerns.

As I write this column, I am traveling to visit our daughter in Europe. Nearly any travel brings new experiences, but going to other countries takes it to a new level. There are different sites, sounds, smells—from the languages and foods, to the toilets and electrical outlets. It reminds me that we all come from different backgrounds, share different experiences,

and carry different perspectives. Whether in a classroom or the clinical environment, we should value those differences and leverage them to make the best teams possible.

I hope that you find yourself part of many teams during your time at Upstate and that those teams are a source of support and inspiration for you.

Together we remain Upstate Strong!

Leann Lesperance, MD PhD
Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education

www.upstate.edu/ume

For questions regarding this publication, please contact:
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Phase 1

MS1 News: We welcomed the incoming Norton College of Medicine class during a week-long academic orientation and clinical boot camp July 24-28. It is always an invigorating time of year seeing fresh faces, excited to get started in their training. There were introductions to many of the exciting new curricular components. Students began preparation for the Longitudinal Clinical Preceptorship (LCP), where students will be paired one-on-one with a preceptor at an outpatient site for meaningful early clinical experiences. A new graduation requirement this year, Community Engaged Learning (CEL), will train all students to be socially responsible, active citizens, who practice cultural humility with the ultimate goal of improving the health of individual patients and the communities in which they live, work, and play. Several sessions introduced students to the expansion of active learning throughout our curriculum. While many examples of active learning already existed in courses throughout Phase 1, this year faculty have worked hard to further reduce passive lectures and shift the learning responsibility toward the student. The literature tells us how impactful a shift like this is for deeper understanding and long-term retention. In a world where information is at our fingertips, higher level critical thinking skills are what will prepare our students to be better doctors and teachers. For the next three weeks, first year students will focus on the foundations of medical knowledge in the Molecules, Cells, and Microbes course while they continue Clinical Bootcamp each afternoon. Then they'll enter the first of six, week-long intensive Health Systems Science (HSS) courses before diving into outpatient sites for the first time the following week.

MS2 News: We've spotted some of the returning second year students in the halls and we look forward to welcoming the entire class on August 14th. Second year students will experience more active learning this year as well as an increase in clinical relevance as pharmacology and pathology threads are introduced. Students should follow the daily academic calendar carefully as we will start on August 14th in the NAB 4414B/C room, but the majority of class sessions will be held in 103 WH or back on the 9th floor. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive last year of the UP Curriculum.

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

Drs. Rebecca Greenblatt and Rachel Hopkins, Phase 1 Co-Directors

Dr. Thomas J Poole, Assistant Dean for the Foundational Science

Theresa Stowell, Director for the Phase 1 Program



Phase 2

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

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

Our fourth-year students are preparing to apply to residency, participating in electives, 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
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences

Greetings from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research!

New self-assessment for MS1s

Josie Suser recently worked with Dr. Greenblatt and Brianna Supensky to build a self-assessment that the newly minted MS1s can use to assess their readiness in several foundational science disciplines. At the end of the self-assessment, students can see links to faculty experts and resources they can use to guide their prep work. You can try it yourself, [here](#).

Resident Readiness Report

Each year, the AAMC offers institutions a mechanism for collecting data on how prepared their graduates were for the start of residency. Early in the PGY1 year, program directors are invited to respond to a survey about each of the new residents and the data are shared with their institutions. Upstate participates in this survey and we can expect to see the latest report on our 2022 graduates in August.

Away Electives Report

Each year, we collect data from MS4s on their experiences with away electives. Students generously include a lot of information about their experiences including things like whether there was a stipend and whether housing was available. Rising MS4 and advisors have access to a report with 5+ years of data on the Brightspace site for the class.

Quick tool for faculty teaching peer reviews

[Here](#) is a quick online tool for reviewing your colleagues' teaching. The measures align with UME goals and sound educational practices. Upon completion, you will be asked to enter an email address. Enter your own and the review will be sent to you to forward to your colleague or enter theirs and it will be sent to them directly.

Measurement spotlight

Retrospective pre/post surveys are not new, but we don't use them enough...yet. You'll see some this year and here are some resources to help you recognize them:

[American Evaluation Association's primer on retrospective pre/posts](#)

[Farhan Bhanji and colleagues' paper on the use of retrospective pre/posts in medical education](#)

Congratulations to Medical Education elective student and faculty team, Drs. Mary Mahoney (class of 2023) and Michael Mix who presented their work on adding Radiation Oncology content to the Phase 1 curriculum at the AAMC's Northeast Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA) conference at the Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine at the University of Vermont this spring.

The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!

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

The GC-EPOs serve as statements of what students are expected to learn or accomplish during medical school at Upstate. They describe the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes that medical students are expected to exhibit as evidence of their achievement and as a basis for the next stage of their training. The GC-EPOs provide the basis for all course and clerkship objectives.

The College of Medicine has six Graduation Competencies, and they are:

- PC: Patient Care
- MK: Medical Knowledge
- IICS: Interpersonal and Interprofessional Communication Skills
- PR: Ethics and Professionalism
- LI: Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
- PH: Systems-Based Practice and Population Health

The full list of GC-EPOs can be found [online](#) and in all course and clerkship syllabi. Please be sure to review this year's objectives for the 2023-24 academic year. All our learning goals, assessments, and curricular planning center around these all-important GCEPOs!

AAMC Careers in Medicine

Choosing a medical specialty is one of the most significant decisions you'll make. With increasing competition for residency positions, you must make your decisions strategically. Careers in Medicine (CiM) can help you:

- assess your interests, values, personality, and skills to help you choose specialties that best fit your attributes.
- learn details such as salary and lifestyle, prerequisites and length of training, competitiveness data, types of patients and procedures, and other characteristics of more than 120 specialties.
- compare your qualifications, pinpoint your preferences for residency training, and compare programs.
- position yourself to be more competitive to land a residency.

You receive free access to CiM. [Sign in](#) using your AAMC Account. This is the same username and password you created to sign up for the MCAT® exam, AMCAS®, and other AAMC services. If you need help signing in, use the tools in the [sign-in box](#) to recover your account information.



The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!



DID YOU KNOW?

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](#)

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 25, 2023, here is the current response rate to the 2023 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	86	47.8%
In Progress	47	26.1
Not Started	47	26.1
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.

The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!

Learning Environment

In efforts to monitor positive influences on the learning environment within the 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 2022-23 academic year, we received more than 225 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.



The Office of Accreditation & Compliance!

Recent Gold Star Recipients

Ahmad Mohammad Wady – Class of 2026 MD-MDCN:

Ahmad showed all of the incoming Medset students the way to Setnor Hall.

Carlos Muniz, MD, MSc – Assistant Professor of Neurology:

I was truly impressed by Dr. Muniz's emphasis on teaching during my consult rotation in the neurology clerkship. He went out of his way to teach us not only what we need to know for exams, but the latest evidence-based practices which work best for patients. I really appreciated his attention to detail and knowledge of statistics in selecting treatments for patients. He took the time to answer our questions and explain them in superb scientific detail yet in a manner in which third-year medical students could understand.



Gold Humanism Honor Society

Please join us for the 21st Annual Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction Ceremony and Student Clinician Ceremony on September 27 at 5:30. Students from the Class of 2024, along with residents and faculty who were chosen by the students will be recognized for their excellence and for being role models.

Class of 2024 Inductees

Madhav Bhatt
Paul Capobianco
Priyal Chadha
Evan Chernov
Kelly Crane
Aron Deiulio
Colby Germann
Romario Gibson
Jacquelyn Knapp
Maria Krisch
Natalie Lebedko
Rani Marhaba
Aniah McLeod
Anindita Rajasekaran
Joseph Repicky
Gavrielle Rood
Robert She
Jasleen Sidhu
Elana Sitnik
Emma Smith
Carlie Thompson
Keisha Warn
Austin Wong
Brenda Zhang

Faculty Inductees

Anuradha Duleep, MD
Teresa Gentile, MD
Kaushal Nanavati, MD
George Stanley, MD

Resident Inductees

Erick Beck, MD
Sedat Gul, MD
Katherine Stebbins, MD

