

UME NEWSLETTER

Letter from the UME office

02/01/2024

Dear Faculty and Staff,
Happy belated New Year! I love the turn around time when light replaces dark.

I would first like to thank Dr. Leann Lesperance for her years of service as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. She stepped down a few weeks ago. We have recently completed interviews for an interim AD-UME, and will ultimately recruit a full time person for this high profile role. Dr. Lesperance continues as Associate Dean for academic affairs at the Binghamton Clinical Campus.

Now that we are a full semester into the academic year, we have a much better understanding of the impact that the new, single pass, 18 month pre-clinical curriculum has systemically. A greater emphasis on Active (NON-lectern/lecture based) learning and early clinical exposure to patients during the Longitudinal Clinical Preceptorship are key changes that are progressing well. It is now time for us to focus on evolving Clinical Clerkships.

We anticipate a challenging Academic year ahead as current first and second year students have a single time overlap during clerkships next fall. This will happen because of the shortened time our MSIs spend in the foundational sciences. In essence, MSIs will enter clinical spaces almost a half year earlier than in the past. The planning for this overlap (ballon*) has begun.

A second major challenge will be incorporating a return to some key areas of basic science during traditionally clinical experiences. It will provide for a much "sticker" foundational-science experience for the students during a second pass. For example, visiting immunology again in the clinical context (cancer, transplant, infectious disease, etc.) allows for a better and more durable learning experience. Likewise with inflammation and vasculitis.

It will come as no surprise that our students are more than typical in many ways. Many are interested in research and community service, as well as leadership and health care advocacy. We welcome opportunities and initiatives from faculty in these areas (write to me at narsipur@upstate.edu). In addition, student interest and advocacy in Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change and Health, Point of Care Ultrasound, and several other expanding areas is propelling us into the forefront of medical education. These are exciting times and we welcome you to join us.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the considerable stress many faculty and students experience revolving around both local and world events. It would be simplistic to expect "answers and solutions". But it is not unreasonable for us to expect to get - and give - Respect, Kindness, and Compassion when dealing with each other and our communities. We all deserve nothing less.

Best Wishes and much Gratitude,

Sriram S. Narsipur, MD
Professor of Internal Medicine, Surgery, and Pediatrics Chair Emeritus and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education Norton College of Medicine Upstate Medical University, Syracuse NY



Wherever the art of medicine is loved,
there is also a love of humanity.
-Hippocrates



Contact Info

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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:
Susan (Anderssu@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



Dr. Thomas Poole

Students, faculty, and staff:

It is great to have our students back from Winter Break! MS1's recently completed the Applied Neuroanatomy (ANA) course and have two Health Systems Science and three body system courses remaining for the year. MS2's are in their last Phase 1 course, taking a deeper dive into the nervous system with the 'Nervous System II'.

Spring can be a busy time of year. We know the Step 1 exam weighs heavily on the minds of many MS2 students. We have been working with the Academic Success office to help them through this process, continually working to establish even better predictors to help students. Course Directors and faculty are ready to help in any way possible to ensure their success. MS1 students will begin to consider the various options they have for the summer; clinical shadowing, research, or spending time at home.

Faculty and students have begun to explore and use recently acquired resources from Kaplan and UWorld. We continue to seek opportunities to emphasize clinical relevance in Phase 1 and increase delivery of content via active learning as these are two of our major curricular goals.

The Susan Graham Excellence in Assessment Award was created by Academic Affairs and the Student Learning Outcomes Committee to recognize one faculty or staff member who has demonstrated excellence in innovative assessment practices. The deadline for nominations this year is March 31, 2024. Nominations should be done with this RedCap form: <https://redcap.link/award>

Thank you to everyone!

Theresa C. Stowell
Director, Phase 1 Program

Phase 2

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Congratulations to the fourth-year students for finishing up a busy residency interview season, and we wish you all a successful match day. Most of our fourth-year students are still actively participating in clinical electives over the next month, and we are happy to have you around taking care of patients and getting your skills brushed up before residency in just a few months! All of our fourth-year students will complete the Transition into Residency course (formerly called March into Residency) in March, learning skills critical to starting residency in just a few months! Thank you to all of our faculty who have signed up to teach our students, and thank you to Dr. Risa Farber-Heath, Dr. Mikki Kollish-Singule, and Ms. Susan Anderson for leading and orchestrating this phenomenal course for the students! For any faculty or residents interested in being involved to help teach our student skills like airway management, IV placement, quality improvement, patient handover, central lines, arterial lines, or suturing please see the link to sign up at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4FABAD22A6F85-46455066-transition/71105032#/>

In clerkships, our third-year students are now about two thirds of the way through their clerkships, and will be making plans toward their fourth year soon, scheduling electives (acting internship rotations and others) to help them finalize their specialty choice and prepare for residency application in September.

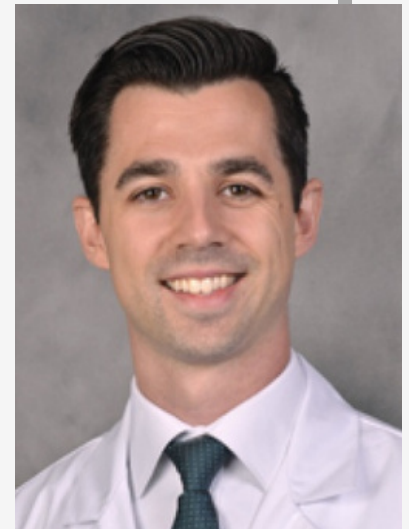
In the next couple months, the clerkship-year students will all be reaching out to Specialty Advisors within their intended specialties to set up meetings to help them prepare for fourth-year and residency application. The list of Specialty Advisors within each specialty can be found at the following link:

<https://www.upstate.edu/com/students/career/specialty-information/index.php>

We are also in the process of the annual review of all clerkships to evaluate and adjust our required clinical experiences as needed.

Thank you everyone for your teaching, learning, and motivation!

Matt Mason, MD
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences



Dr. Matthew Mason

Thank you to all of our faculty who have signed up to teach our students, and thank you to Dr. Risa Farber-Heath, Dr. Mikki Kollish-Singule, and Ms. Susan Anderson for leading and orchestrating this phenomenal course for the students!
-Dr.Mason

Report Gold Star



Binghamton Campus

Greetings from the Binghamton Campus!

This is Binghamton's inaugural column in the UME newsletter; thank you Susan Anderson for the invite!

Hat Changes: For the last several years, you have seen me wearing two hats – one that I put on in March 2018 for my role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Binghamton Campus and the other that I added in September 2019 when I became AD for Undergraduate Medical Education overall. I've sincerely enjoyed working with students, faculty, and staff on both campuses but at the end of December, I took off the ADUME hat so I can focus my efforts at the Binghamton Campus. I'll still be involved in many UME activities and remain easily available by phone, email, or chat, so feel free to reach out!

Staff Shout-outs: We want to welcome our newest staff member, Kara Donato, who started as Clinical Education Coordinator on November 30. She ramped up quickly and is a terrific addition to our team. Kudos to Sheila Cheevers, our student affairs administrator, who did a great job running SPEs until Kara took over. Third- and fourth-year students will be excited to hear that Julia Milewski will be back from her family leave in mid-April.

Alumni Tree: To increase awareness about the Binghamton Campus of Upstate, we sponsored a tree at the Roberson Museum and Science Center in downtown Binghamton during their Home for the Holidays event which brings in over 10,000 visitors annually. Holly Horn, our very-creative Director of Student Affairs, came up with the idea to decorate our tree with a combination of gingerbread people wearing scrubs and surgical caps, and origami white coats. Each coat featured the name of a Binghamton Campus alum who practices in the Binghamton area, and a QR code that linked to the physician's clinical webpage. The tree was a great way to show how embedded Upstate is in the Binghamton community and we have plans to continue sponsoring a tree in future years.

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



Dr. Leann Lesprance



Alumni Tree

Report Gold Star



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 build 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 2023 Year Two Questionnaire (Y2Q)

Marisel Liebeskind, Brendan Maloney, Ciara Murphy, Maria Ruiz-Chiang, and Sabrina Sun were the winners of the Y2Q Raffle - CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to all who completed the questionnaire.

AAMC 2024 Graduation Questionnaire (GQ)

On February 14, all MS4 students will be sent a link to the AAMC GQ survey. This survey provides students the opportunity to give their feedback on all four years of the curriculum and their overall experience at Upstate. We value your feedback and use the results to inform decision-making in.

The LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) Year 2 Questionnaire (Y2Q) and Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) serve as crucial tools in the accreditation process for medical education programs.

The Year 2 Questionnaire (Y2Q) is designed to assess the effectiveness of the pre-clinical curriculum and identify areas for improvement. It gathers feedback from second-year medical students on their educational experiences, curriculum content, and the overall learning environment. This information helps institutions address any shortcomings and enhance the quality of their educational programs.

On the other hand, the Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) is administered to graduating students, seeking their input on various aspects of their medical education. It aims to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the medical program, including clinical experiences, faculty support, and preparedness for postgraduate training. The GQ provides insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the program, contributing to ongoing efforts for continuous improvement.

Both questionnaires play a pivotal role in the accreditation process by providing valuable data and feedback that institutions can use to ensure that their medical education programs align with the standards set by the LCME and are conducive to producing competent and compassionate healthcare professional

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 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](#).

Accreditation and Compliance

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Data & Reports

Wonder what happens to all the data from the numerous surveys the AAMC sends out? The AAMC regularly releases current, authenticated data on the most important topics in academic medicine. Check out the [website](#)!

Guidance in the selection of electives

The College of Medicine offers more than 200 electives: everything from classes taken on campus, to several weeks abroad working in a clinic. Students may take electives throughout the four years of medical school. Electives can be found in the Course Selection Book, or you can create your elective through the Unique Elective process. For more information, check out the [website](#).

Financial Aid and Educational Debt Management Counseling

Financial Aid and Debt Management Counseling are integral components of LCME accreditation as they support the accessibility, well-being, and success of medical students. By addressing these financial aspects, institutions demonstrate a commitment to meeting accreditation standards and fostering an environment conducive to producing competent and resilient healthcare professionals.

Your Financial Aid Team encourages all students in the College of Medicine to visit the Financial Literacy section of the website to explore the many resources available to help you manage your overall educational debt and understand your finances. You will also find information on our workshops and specific timelines for classes that are designed to help you navigate your finances. Please check out, our [website](#), or reach out to us at finaid@upstate.edu if you have any questions or concerns about your finances – we are here to help!

Mechanisms for Reporting Negative Behaviors Experienced During Medical School

An environment that optimizes learning and is built on respect and dignity is our expectation. The way we treat others (faculty, students, residents, staff) either realizes this expectation or interferes with the learning process. Discrimination, humiliation, and harassment simply can't be tolerated.

Mechanisms for Reporting Positive Behaviors Experienced During Medical School

An environment that optimizes learning and is built on respect and dignity is Upstate Medical University's expectation. To do so, the Gold Star Report 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.

[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.

★ **Dr. Mackenzie Trovato** ★

“During my initial three weeks in the surgery clerkship, Dr. Trovato played a pivotal role in making the experience truly exceptional. It marked the first time I felt fully integrated into the team. Her adept balancing of teaching and patient care left a lasting impression. I was especially impressed by her meticulous guidance through each step of the case, demonstrating patience and professionalism with both students and staff. Working in her operating room stands out as the most enriching educational experience I've had in my third year.”

★ **Joshua Long – MS4 Student** ★

“Joshua Long, an MS4, was extremely helpful when I began IM teams at Upstate. He was always willing to help the MS3 students – giving us advice about note writing, presentations, and taught us how to write hospital course summaries. He was on a different elective, but still took extensive time to help us while we were learning the ropes of internal medicine and even teach about pathophysiology if I was confused. One specific encounter I can remember is when I had to call my first consult. He was willing to show me how to call the correct number and the order of a presentation for calling a consult. I am very thankful for his help during my internal medicine rotation. He made my first few weeks of IM easier and made me a better MS3 overall. He will make a great future resident.”

★ **Dr. Clara El Nakib – Resident** ★

“Dr. El Nakib is one of the best residents I have worked with while in medical school. She is kind, caring, and passionate about her work. She brings contagious positive energy to the group daily during morning rounds. Clara makes everyone feel like they are a vital part of the team and is ALWAYS happy to answer questions and teach the medical students. On one of my inpatient pediatric days, I went to check up on a newly admitted patient with Clara. While in the room the patient's oxygen saturation dropped to the 20s. It was completely unexpected, and she jumped into action to help the child. I did what I could to help during the situation while help arrived. Clara called me later that evening after she left the hospital for the night to check in on me. This level of care for a medical student is rarely seen and greatly appreciated. I aspire to be a physician as caring, knowledgeable, and compassionate as Clara one day!”



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.

Sean Bresnahan, DO, a clinical assistant professor of Family Medicine at Upstate Medical University, is the January 2024 recipient of the Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. BRESNAHAN’S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Bresnahan went above and beyond to care for his patients and demonstrated many values that I hope to embody as a future physician. He sought to give us teaching moments whenever possible – including those beyond patient care, such as the logistics of practicing as a physician. He has the best bedside manner, and he has a special knack for connecting with people and putting them at ease. He is also extremely efficient and timely on a daily basis and set a great example for how an efficient practice can be run. Thank you for a great five weeks, Dr. B!”

“The way Dr. Bresnahan speaks and interacts with his patients is incredible. You can tell he truly cares about each of his patients and their situations. A major strength of Dr. B is his ability to ask straightforward questions but also his ability to ask certain things in a more subtle and indirect manner. Dr. Bresnahan also related to so many of his patients with his own personal stories that really gave the patients a safe space. Another strength of Dr. Bresnahan is his ability to teach both me as the student and the patient.”



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Marcia Des Jardin, MD, a Chief Resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Upstate Medical University, is the January 2024 recipient of the Resident Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DES JARDIN’S STUDENTS:

“I have an interest in endocrinology, so during the Ob Gyn clerkship I asked Dr. Des Jardin a question about progesterone. She was able to answer most of the question, but she seemed unsatisfied with the answer she was able to provide and told me that she would send me more information about it at a later date. Usually when doctors have told me something like this in the past, they forget about it and never send me a follow up. However, Dr. Des Jardin researched the question on her own time and sent me an email with a thorough explanation of the function of the hormone based on the most recent literature she could find. I appreciated her taking the time to research and answer my question. When I become a resident, I hope to be as hard-working and helpful to my students as Dr. Des Jardin.”

“Dr. Des Jardin is super encouraging and allowed me to gain more confidence with my patient care. She is an amazing provider, and it was clear that her patients felt happy and grateful to have her be part of their care. Despite some of the extremely busy nights that we worked together, she was always sure to teach me high-yield topics that have been extremely helpful to know throughout my shelf exam studying and OB GYN clerkship in general. Dr. Des Jardin is very inspiring and even has me considering OB GYN as a specialty now. I appreciate all of her hard work that she does for her team and patients and all that she does for us students as well!”

Evaluation, Assessment & Research

Greetings from The Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research,

We hope you all had lovely holiday breaks and are staying warm in the Central New York winter! This is one of our favorite times of year, and one of our busiest. Our office works with all 19 academic programs at Upstate and as such we are currently assisting with numerous accreditations and strategic planning processes.

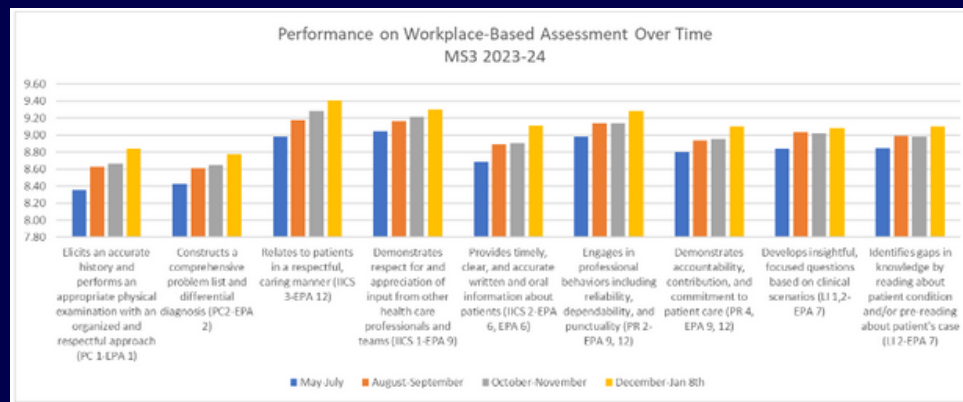
Student Learning Outcomes Committee: One way we help tie all Upstate's programs together is through the Student Learning Outcomes Committee (SLOC), chaired by Dr. Germain with three student representatives from the College of Medicine: Nicholas Brennan, Madeline Lee and Sanaea Bhagwager. When programs go through their cyclical accreditation reviews, they work with the SLOC to ensure their assessments are aligned with their learning objectives and their curricular maps are updated in accordance with best practice.

Assessment Award: Along with Dr. Cleary from Academic Affairs, SLOC has created the Susan Graham Excellence in Assessment Award, to recognize and honor a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated excellence in creating thoughtful and unique assessments. We highly encourage everyone (students, faculty and staff) to please submit nominations for faculty or staff members you think are worthy of such distinction. Submissions can be entered here: <https://redcap.link/award>

Faculty Educator Development: Our office recently presented an invited Faculty Educator Development session, sponsored by Dr. Ann Botash and her team in Faculty Affairs. The presentation leveraged work we've done with a national community of practice that Upstate is an inaugural member of. We were honored to discuss our forthcoming publication (currently under review) and work from a recent poster presented at the AAMC meeting in Seattle. We discussed disaggregating data to better understand student outcomes and performance with a lens of fairness. This is not only aligned with best practice but is a requirement of Middle States Accreditation and we've been invited into conversations on the topic with the AMA due to our work in the area.

Student Opinion Survey: The Student Opinion Survey (SOS) is completed! This is a bi-annual survey, with local versions completed by SUNY students across the state. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete this short survey. Your insights are invaluable as we update the College of Medicine's strategic plan, prepare for MD accreditation visits, and meet our continuous quality improvement initiatives. Your feedback is hugely important, please continue to complete your MedHub evaluations. Only students can provide the student perspective, so we are so grateful for the time you spend completing your evaluations!

MS3 Clinical Assessments Continue To Show Growth: Because feedback is the backbone of growth and learning, in the clerkship year both students and faculty/residents complete Medhub evaluations. For students, these evaluations are an important component of their grade. Our office, along with COM leadership closely monitors clinical evaluation data to ensure students are receiving high-quality feedback. Below are performance data in the clerkships from this current year. As you can see, in all domains, student performance increases throughout the year as students gain the necessary skills and knowledge needed to be successful.



Dr. Lauren Germain

“Your feedback is hugely important, please continue to complete your MedHub evaluations. Only students can provide the student perspective, so we are so grateful for the time you spend completing your evaluations!”
 -Dr. Germain

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.
 - Dr. Lauren Germain: germainl@upstate.edu
 - Ms. Josie Suser: Suserj@upstate.edu

Report Gold Star





get to know us better.

Amber Gray

Phase One Clinical Skills Manager



What's your favorite Movie or Show?

West Side Story.

What's your dream vacation location?

I'm a Disney girl at heart! World, not land.

What's your favorite quote?

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take. -Wayne Gretzky.

Who is your hero?

My mom and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

What is something that always makes you smile?

When I see people walking their dogs.

Dr. Lizel Stover

Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Coordinator

What's your favorite Movie or Show?

Movie: Under the Tuscan Sun (Rom/Com) & Star Wars: episode IV (Sci-fi) TV Series: Grey's Anatomy.

What's your dream vacation location?

Gatlinburg, TN.

What's your favorite quote?

"All is Good."

Who is your hero?

My mother because she's the strongest and smartest woman I know.

What is something that always makes you smile?

My grandson and granddaughter.

