

CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising

Pre-Professional E-Bulletin

Week of November 30, 2009

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving this past weekend. This semester is ending and we encourage you to continue to stay focused. Make sure you are beginning to prepare for finals and/or final projects and papers. Don't try to cram an entire semester's worth of information the weekend or even night before finals! Meet with your professors about any questions you have regarding your grade or final information. If you have any concerns with your schedule for the next semester, set up a time to meet with your faculty advisor or your professional advisor to work out those issues before you leave for winter vacation. Good luck with these last three weeks!

Click to view our: [CLAS Academic Advising Center Pre-Professional Webpage](#)

1. Program Opportunities

2. Other Useful Information

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information that may be of interest to you. By posting information, it does not mean that we endorse the organizations or services enclosed.

1. Program Opportunities

Medicine and Dentistry

The Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) is a free six week summer academic enrichment program for college freshman and sophomore students who are interested in a career in medicine or dentistry. The goal of the program is to prepare aspiring freshman and sophomores to become competitive applicants to medical and dental school.

SMDEP is implemented at the following 12 program sites across the nation.

- Case Western Reserve University Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine
- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and College of Dental Medicine
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA School of Dentistry
- Duke University School of Medicine
- Howard University Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Dentistry, and Medicine
- The University of Texas Dental Branch and Medical School at Houston
- UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical and New Jersey Dental Schools
- University of Louisville Schools of Medicine and Dentistry
- University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Medicine and Dentistry
- University of Virginia School of Medicine
- University of Washington Schools of Medicine and Dentistry
- Yale University School of Medicine

*Application opens: **November 1st**

Application deadline: **March 1st***

*All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early!

For additional information and to access the online application, visit [<www.smdep.org](http://www.smdep.org)

<http://lists.aamc.org/t/35751/170728/236/0/>

University of Queensland-Ochsner

If you did not get into medical school in the previous cycle, here is an opportunity for you. You could begin medical school in January 2010, and we want to alert you to an excellent opportunity to obtain a superb medical education.

The University of Queensland-Ochsner program allows students to complete their first two years at the University of Queensland's medical school, which is ranked number 32 in the world, according to a "Times" of London survey of international medical schools, and it is located in Brisbane, Australia. Students then complete their second two years of clinical rotations at the Ochsner Clinical School in New Orleans. They are supported by the faculty at Ochsner in their residency applications and participate in Match Day.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students who are committed to a career in medicine and who have otherwise solid applications but who have struggled a bit with the MCAT. We are looking for MCAT scores of 8, 8, 8, M and a B average.

If you have questions, please do call us at 877.777.0155 ext.104 and we'll be happy to explain the program to you. The url of our website is: www.medepath.org

Human Anatomy for Undergraduates

The tenth annual summer course in Human Anatomy for Undergraduates will be offered by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine this year. The course will run for four weeks in June, 2010, on the Medical School campus in Baltimore, and will include both lectures and demonstrations using human cadavers. Applications will be accepted from all currently enrolled undergraduates who have completed their sophomore year of college. Total tuition for the course will be \$3800. All course materials, including the textbook and an atlas, are included in the tuition. Four (4) academic credits will be awarded upon successful completion of the course. Accommodations are available on the main undergraduate campus of Johns Hopkins University. A completed application form, a non-refundable application fee of \$50, and supporting materials (college transcript, letter of recommendation from an academic advisor) are due by **March 15, 2010**. Successful applicants will be notified by April 1, with full tuition due by May 1. More course details, including a downloadable application form, can be found on the Internet at:

www.hopkinsmedicine.org/FAE/anatomyinstitute. For further information, please contact Ms. Arlene Daniel at adaniel@jhmi.edu.

M.D./Ph.D

NIH-Oxford-Cambridge Fully-Funded Doctoral Program in Biomedical Research

We would like to bring your attention to a groundbreaking biomedical research doctoral program-the National Institutes of Health-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program. This innovative program grew from the realization that the next generation of research scientists will increasingly need to adopt interdisciplinary approaches as they strive to produce high impact research outcomes whether basic or clinical.

This is an accelerated program, and students typically receive a doctoral degree in approximately four years. There is no standard curriculum or required coursework. Rather, each student pursues an individualized course of study in which thesis work is initiated at the beginning of the first year. The thesis project is carried out as a collaboration between two labs, with half the research undertaken at NIH and half at one of the UK universities and each student being mentored by a senior scientist at each location. The program takes advantage of the superb resources and training environments at Oxford, Cambridge, and the NIH, the world's largest biomedical research facility, the main campus of which is located in Bethesda, Maryland where a diverse community of scientists conduct their research in over 1000 laboratories and the world's largest clinical research center conducts more than 1000 clinical research protocols.

From its first class that matriculated in 2001, NIH-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars have achieved at the highest levels of biomedical research, publishing first-author papers in journals such as Nature, Nature Medicine, Nature Immunology, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and The Journal of Experimental Medicine. Graduates have gone on to do post-doctoral training in top academic institutions and industry labs, and a few have gone directly to faculty positions.

All students are fully funded by the NIH for the duration of their doctoral work at both research sites and receive a stipend, health insurance, and travel assistance. Through the NIH M.D./Ph.D Partnership Training Program, we also offer funding for combined M.D./Ph.D. training in collaboration with over twenty U.S. medical schools participating in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). For details about the M.D./Ph.D. options and training tracks please consult <http://gpp.nih.gov/Prospective/InstitutionalPartnerships/MSTPatNIH/>.

The application deadline for Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. candidates is **January 4th, 2010**. The free application is available online through the program website at <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov> via the "Apply Now" button. On our web site you will find additional program details, FAQs, student biographies, descriptions of some of the exciting research projects underway, and more. We would also like to invite you to participate in a teleconference call to learn more about our programs. Please email us at oxcam@mail.nih.gov or mdphd@mail.nih.gov if you would like more information or would like to participate in a conference call.

Please take a look at the flyers through the links below. We hope to hear from you soon!

<http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/documents/OXCAM2010Flyerwdeadline.pdf>

<http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/documents/MSTPflyer2010.pdf>

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM PRE-MSTP SUMMER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM (10 weeks: June 7 - August 13, 2010)

The University of Michigan Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) is accepting applications for its Pre-MSTP Program. The program will provide an opportunity for highly motivated and talented undergraduates to participate in a ten week summer research-focused program in the University of Michigan Medical School. The MSTP is an NIH-funded combined M.D./Ph.D. training program; it takes students approximately 8 years to earn the two degrees. MSTP graduates typically establish careers in academic medicine focused on basic research relevant to human diseases. Clinical medicine generally is a small component of the M.D./Ph.D. career and serves primarily to inform and enhance the research.

For undergraduates potentially interested in the above career path, the Pre-MSTP summer program provides biomedical research experience and exposure to clinical medicine. This may help you decide if this is the right career for you, and could enhance your competitiveness when applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.

A stipend of \$4200 and university housing will be provided. The program will cover transportation costs to and from Ann Arbor up to \$200. Students are responsible for providing their own meals.

PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPECT TO:

- Perform full-time research in a faculty laboratory
- Attend bi-weekly luncheon presentations where faculty discuss their research
- Give short presentations of their summer accomplishments at the conclusion of the program
- Obtain clinical exposure opportunities in the form of physician shadowing
- Attend the three-day MSTP annual retreat at Higgins Lake
- Attend formal MCAT instruction over an 8 week period by the Stanley Kaplan Review Center

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the UM Pre-MSTP Program, an applicant must:

- Be from an under-represented minority group (African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Alaskan Native, Hawaiian Native, Native of the U.S. Pacific Islands) **OR** from a socio-economically disadvantaged background **OR** be a student with disabilities
- Be a current undergraduate (excluding those applying to Med/Grad School for 2010)
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Have completed a science course with laboratory

Application Receipt Deadline: **February 12, 2010**

Contact:

University of Michigan Medical Scientist Training Program
Phone (734) 764-6176
1150 West Medical Center Drive
2965 Taubman Medical Library
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5619
E-mail: mstp@umich.edu
<http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/mstp/>

CIC Summer Research Opportunities Program

The Committee on Institutional Cooperation is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2010 CIC Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP). Applications will be accepted until **February 10, 2010**.

SROP is the gateway to graduate education at CIC universities. Students underrepresented in graduate study are invited to apply for a summer program designed to enhance their academic and research skills by working one-on-one with a faculty mentor from top ranked research institutions. All SROP students on the host campus meet weekly as a group for educational enrichment activities and special seminars. Participants from all of the campuses will come together in July for the annual SROP Conference at Ohio State University. Students gain experience as an undergraduate to put them at an advantage as a graduate applicant. At the same time they will earn money and have all expenses paid during this full time summer research opportunity. It's the competitive edge they will need to rank above the best of the best.

Students wishing to participate in SROP must meet the minimum eligibility criteria:

Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (4.0 scale)

Be a citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S.

Be enrolled in a degree-granting program at a college or university in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territory

Have completed at least two semesters of undergraduate education

Have at least one semester of undergraduate education remaining after completing the program

Have a strong interest in pursuing a Ph.D.

Details about SROP and the web-based application process are available at the program website: www.cic.net/SROP. Please encourage your students to explore this exciting opportunity. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Charity Farber at cfarber@staff.cic.net or 217-333-6314.

Research Programs

If you are an underrepresented December grad who is looking for "glide" opportunities, UPIRTA - the University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Award program - has 2 grant-funded research spots available in Infectious Diseases (looking at MRSA, C. difficile, A. baumannii, staph aureus and modeling for H1N1). The positions will run from January until August of 2010. The application receipt deadline is **December 15, 2009**.

Information is at <http://www.healthdiversity.pitt.edu/programs/upirta.php>. Interested students may contact me at the number/email address below:
412-648-2066 - phone
[pdk100@pitt.edu](mailto:pkd100@pitt.edu)

Post-Baccalaureate Programs

Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

We have a one year post-bac enhancement program which does not require the MCAT to be taken prior to entering and has an MCAT prep component. Here is the link to the program. For more information, please contact Jean Herndon, Director of Post-Baccalaureate Programs at jherndon@vcom.vt.edu

The program is new this year and going very well. We have 26 in the program and plan to expand to up to 40 next year.
<http://www.vcom.vt.edu/post-baccalaureate/index.html>

Drexel University College of Medicine

The Medical Science Preparatory (MSP) program does not require an incoming MCAT score and does include MCAT preparation. Our MSP program can be viewed at www.drexelmed.edu/ims.

Podiatry

American Podiatric Medical Association

Today's podiatrist does it all; that's what a new video developed by the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) is promoting. Set to a driving musical backbeat, the "MTV-style" video shows clips from educational, surgical, and practice settings and drives home the point that a career in podiatric medicine is challenging, diverse and rewarding. Students can view the video and then choose to learn more at their leisure. The video can be viewed on the APMA website at www.apma.org or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/theAPMA#p/a

The APMA has recently created exciting, informative, and new ways for students to learn about careers in podiatric medicine. Last month, another new "testimonial" video was released. This short video has interviews with podiatrists, students and residents and explores the reasons why they each chose a career in podiatric medicine and what they like best about the profession. This video can also be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/theAPMA#p/a/u/1/fvDu7oeAzRE or on the APMA career page at www.apma.org/careers.

For more information, feel free to contact the APMA at careerinfo@apma.org

Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine

Pre-Professional Internship Program offered every January, June and July. More information is available on our website: http://www.ocpm.edu/departments/student_affairs/admissions/intership.asp. Cost for the internship program would be the applicant's transportation to Cleveland, Ohio; most other expenses are covered except for perhaps some meals. This program provides an opportunity for prospective students to visit our college, meet our current students, observe in our clinics, and overall determine for themselves if podiatric medicine is something they would like to pursue as a career. The dates are as follows: January 4-8, January 11-15, June 7-11, June 14-18, July 12-16 and July 19-23. If students are unable to participate in the internship program, they can contact a podiatrist and/or current podiatric medical student through the D.P.M. Mentors Network: www.aacpm.org/careercenter/index.asp. On this website, the student enters their state of residence; and what follows is a list of podiatrists practicing in the particular state along with contact information for current student mentors.

If you have any other questions Contact:

Aaron Berger (aberger@ocpm.edu) or Lorie Franck (lfranck@ocpm.edu)

2. Other Useful Information

PRE-MED OPPORTUNITY IN INDIA

Any undergraduate student that is interested in international community health should know about the Mabelle Arole Fellowship, awarded annually since 2002 through JSI Research and Training, Inc. Candidates must be admitted to medical school to be eligible. If awarded the Fellowship, they defer entrance to medical school for one year. Applications are due in **mid-January 2010** and finalists are interviewed in mid-March at AMSA conference. The fellow departs US in late August and returns in early summer of 2011. The Fellow, who receives \$8,000 to cover all expenses, spends 10 months at the Comprehensive Rural Health Project at Jamkhed (in Maharashtra), one of the best examples of how mobilized/empowered communities can significantly improve their health/nutrition status. All relevant information is available on the AMSA website (www.amsa.org, search for Arole) which has link to Jamkhed site and contains reports by previous Fellows. Any questions can be directed to Dr. David Pyle at dpyle@JSI.com or 202-258-4474.

Continuing Education Pre-Health Sciences Professional Certificate Program

Are interested in a healthcare or biomedical career, but don't have a science degree or the desired GPA for applying to Health Professional Schools?

California State University, East Bay's new Pre-Health Sciences Professional

(http://www.ce.csueastbay.edu/certificate/prehealth/index.shtml?cid=prehealth_111809) certificate program is specifically designed to provide the competitive advantage needed to launch a career in medicine, optometry, dentistry, veterinary medicine and other healthcare fields.

By successfully completing this exciting new program, students will:

- * Acquire essential knowledge in basic and advanced science courses
- * Gain necessary experience in various health settings
- * Prepare for national entrance exams such as the MCAT, DAT, GRE, and OAT
- * Participate in conducting basic and clinical research both on and off campus
- * Receive mentoring, tutoring, and general advising

Classes start Monday, January 4th. Information meetings are being held now, and are scheduled throughout 2010.

Visit our website for more information: http://www.ce.csueastbay.edu/certificate/prehealth/index.shtml?cid=prehealth_111809

Explore Health Careers

With so much uncertainty about the economy and the unemployment rate reaching its highest rate in 26 years

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/07/business/economy/07jobs.html?r=1&scp=1&sq=current%20unemployment%20rate%20in%20US&st=cse>), everyone wants to know about the types of jobs that will be available in the future and how they can obtain job security.

Want to learn how to prepare for tomorrow's jobs? Explore a health career -- and further your education beyond high school!

Learn how jobs of tomorrow will target highly-skilled, educated healthcare workers.

<http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Article.aspx?id=229&draft=true>

While you're at ExploreHealthCareers.org <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/index.aspx>, consider:

Do you have an interest in teaching others how to eat healthy? You are what you eat. Nutrition can have an important impact on health and disease. Consider pursuing a career in Nutrition and Dietetics. <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field.25.aspx>

Good with computers? Learn how Health Information Technology <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Article.186.aspx> is creating new career opportunities. Are you a current health professions student who loves to teach? Consider an academic health career. <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Article.220.aspx>

Want to learn more about health care careers and education? The Health Care Careers e-Letter <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/40/hp-1109.pdf>, published monthly by the American Medical Association (AMA), provides you the latest news/updates on educational trends and career-related issues in the health professions. This free e-mail newsletter is a great resource for helping you attain your dream of a career in health care. Subscribe now! <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/hpe-letter>

BMS Faculty Interviews

The BMS department will once again be interviewing candidates this winter semester for tenure track professor positions within the department.

As part of this process we are hoping to gather a group of 6-8 BMS majors who would be willing to meet and evaluate these candidates.

Requirements: Students would need to commit to meet with the candidates over the lunch hour (~noon to 1:00pm) Mondays and Fridays and host them for lunch over at the Fresh Food Court (meal expenses covered by the department).

Afterwards, each member would complete a brief evaluation form as to their impressions of the candidate. If possible we'd encourage student members of the group to earlier attend the candidate's seminar which will be scheduled from 8am to 8:45am. The first set of interviews has been scheduled for Friday January 22, Monday January 25 and Friday January 29, with additional ones to follow in February.

If you wish to be considered provide your name, e-mail, and a phone number where we can reach you.

Please forward your contact information in electronic form to: biomeddept@gvsu.edu or stop by the **BMS Office in PAD 312** and leave your info with one of our office staff.

In order to be considered, you need to notify the BMS no later than the end of **Finals week, Friday December 18th**.

Thanks for your considerations and help in this important departmental process.

International Clinical Opportunities

Dec. 26-Jan. 8 - Dominican Republic and North Central Mexico

We have two options to reduce the cost of these two teams, they are:

A. Use the Sponsorship program through Good Samaritan Missions and for the first \$150 you receive in donations, Good Samaritan Missions will match it with a second \$150. This will give you a possible \$300 discount on your trip.

OR

B. Take a flat \$100 discount off of the cost of the trip. (This cannot be used with the Good Samaritan Missions matching fund.)

Last year we utilized over *1,200 pre-health students (and med students) from over 100 universities *on our teams. To view a printable flier with more information on these health trips, *click here http://www.ISLonline.org/flyers/ISL_Jan_flyer.pdf * (PDF file).

For additional information, please visit our web site at www.ISLonline.org

Additionally, we are looking for students to be representatives on campus as a way of earning a free trip. We can also set up a trip for your school or organization. If you are interested in being a rep or setting up a team or putting a group together please contact Kyle Winston at kyle@ISLonline.org 361-334-9690.

For more information or visit our website at www.ISLonline.org. Financial aid available for all trips. Contact ISL about setting up a team and reducing your trip cost.

Our 2009-2010 Schedule is available on our website at www.ISLonline.org. Just click on Team Schedule. We have teams scheduled throughout the year. If you have any questions please contact Pepper Tucker at pepper@ISLonline.org.

What happens when you believe something with all your heart? Belief fuels enthusiasm, and determined enthusiasm explodes into passion. It fires our souls and lifts our spirits.

~Mac Anderson