The Pritzker Pulse
A Quarterly Publication of the Pritzker School of Medicine

DEAN’S CORNER

A Welcome from the Pritzker Chiefs!

Each fall, Dr. Holly J. Humphrey, Dean for Medical Education, turns over the Dean’s Corner to the Pritzker Chiefs. The Pritzker Chiefs are selected each spring by the rising fourth-year class and deans to serve as class presidents and school leaders. Dr. Humphrey’s regular column will appear in the Winter 2014 issue of the Pritzker Pulse.

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni:

It’s hard to believe that summer’s end is near—a new school year is upon us! Whether you spent time exploring other continents or finding your footing on the wards, we hope the summer brought you warmth and relaxation. Get ready to take on all the fun, football, and foliage that fall in Chicago has to offer!

We are thrilled to welcome the Class of 2018 to the Pritzker family. Since donning their new white coats in August, they have taken on the anatomy lab with zeal and made an impact on the community through Health Care Disparities: Equity and Advocacy. Meanwhile, many of our second years are returning from scholarly summers spent in Chicago and abroad, and delving into neurobiology and pharmacology. Third years are continuing to shine in the clinical arena. Fourth years are busy at work on their applications and preparing to hit the road to residency. Amidst our differing schedules, we’ve all been celebrating the Pritzker community through society events, Social Rounds, and the Pritzker Sibs program, a new initiative that creates mentorship families with members from each class.

We are honored to serve as your Pritzker Chiefs for this upcoming year. Our role is to act as liaisons between the student body and the school administration, faculty, and alumni council. Students will hear from us weekly through “This Week at Pritzker” (TWAP) emails, which keep everyone informed of meetings and events happening at Pritzker. This year, we have expanded TWAP to include events happening in our South Side community and our great city of Chicago. We will be working closely with the Peer Mentors at Pritzker (PMAP) and the new Pritzker Sibs program to organize mentorship events throughout the year. We will meet regularly with each class to talk about life in and outside of medical school, address concerns, and offer encouragement and support.

In addition to the great traditions at Pritzker like Social Rounds, Field Day, and Beat the Blues, we look forward to adding some exciting new events and activities to the school calendar. We will continue “Exploring Chicago with the Chiefs” and have already drawn up events like apple-picking, karaoke, and attending musicals and plays. We will also host school-wide potlucks, Chief Chats, and early morning Coffee & Donuts for those on the wards. Along with Dean Humphrey, we will lead the Pritzker Morning Report course in September, January, and March. This course provides opportunities for fourth-year students to learn from one another about interesting cases they’ve encountered. First and second year students are invited to observe and participate in these dynamic learning sessions.

If you have any ideas on how to make the Pritzker community even more enriching for us all, we invite them. Should any issues or concerns arise throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here for you, and we are here to help. We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you over the next year. Cheers to another fantastic year at Pritzker!

Your Pritzker Chiefs,
Jimin Kim, Manas Nigam, and Joanna Perdomo
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Meet Dr. Wei Wei Lee
Spotlight on Service
Expanding the Pritzker Family
On August 10, the Pritzker School of Medicine officially welcomed the Class of 2018 during our annual White Coat Ceremony. Speaking to the 90 matriculating medical students and their families on a cool August Sunday, the Dean for Medical Education, Holly J. Humphrey, MD ’83, explained that incoming students gather in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel for a meaningful purpose: to publicly affirm their commitment to the practice of medicine, to feel welcomed into their profession, and to feel supported by the faculty and staff of the University of Chicago Medical Center. Dean Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD, similarly offered his congratulations to students on their acceptance at the University of Chicago and the beginning of their journey as physicians.

After some brief words of welcome from the White Coat Ceremony MS2 student co-chairs, James Luo and Rebeca Ortiz-Weissberg, Keme Carter, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and the Emergency Medicine Clerkship Director, delivered the keynote address. Responding to recent articles and sound-bites about the cost of medical education and the worthiness of the profession, Dr. Carter, exclaimed, “What those writers do not understand is that medicine is a calling. It is a privilege to practice medicine, and it is a fulfilling, unique, and intellectually challenging way to serve humanity by restoring health and providing comfort.” Evoking the rapidly evolving reforms surrounding medical care, Dr. Carter urged students to “be a voice to advocate for quality and equitable healthcare in our country.”

After Dr. Carter’s speech, the matriculating students approached the podium individually to receive their white coats from their respective career advisors. Thanks to a generous gift from the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence and the Pritzker School of Medicine, each student also received a stethoscope, which will help them “keep an ear on the hearts” of their patients. Standing in their white coats students finished by reciting the Hippocratic Oath.
SUMMER UPDATE

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

On a picturesque day back in May, 102 Pritzker School of Medicine graduates gathered with their families in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel to receive their hoods at the Divisional Academic Ceremony. Before all the hugs, handshakes, and high-fives, David Axelrod, Director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago and former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, gave a moving keynote address to our graduating students. Recounting his personal journey caring for his epileptic daughter, and his professional journey working to pass health care reform, Axelrod urged graduates to treat their patients as humans first, and to remember their patients' personal lives and not just their illnesses. Following their graduation in June, newly minted Pritzker doctors entered residencies in 24 states. Best of luck, Class of 2014!

Institute of Politics Internship

By Ava Ferguson, MS2

Through the Institute of Politics, I was able to participate in a new internship this summer at the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). I worked full-time for 10 weeks at the CDPH's downtown offices with their chief strategy and innovation officer, Dr. Jay Bhatt, on several health system integration projects geared towards preventative care for underserved populations in Chicago. The projects ranged from efforts to creatively finance preventative diabetes care to organizing the expansion of CDPH's community health worker-based cardiovascular screening program into the South Side. I was able to meet and work with CDPH staff who had come to public health from a variety of backgrounds—clinicians, epidemiologists, lawyers, and more. The internship served as an introduction to the world of public health and provided me with great examples of clinicians who have made community engagement the center of their lives as doctors. The experience of working in public health this summer was an enlightening counterpoint to the experiences I had during my first year at Pritzker, and I believe that both the successful and challenging aspects of the projects I worked on will inform the rest of my medical education and practice. I have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of community and environmental health, as well as the hardships so many people experience in their attempts to access our healthcare system.

For information on internships at the IOP, visit http://politics.uchicago.edu/pages/internships.
The Student Clinician Ceremony

Not long after we said farewell to the Class of 2014, we welcomed our rising third year students to the clinical medicine experience at our Student Clinician Ceremony. On June 19 at the DCAM, Holly J. Humphrey, MD’83 gathered with the Class of 2016 to honor this year’s winners of our school’s teaching awards and to hear a keynote address from Dr. Jerome Klafta, MD ’89, Professor of Anesthesia and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Klafta was elected by his faculty peers as the 2014 recipient of the Faculty Physician Peer Role Model Award. This award recognizes the physician faculty member in the University of Chicago Medicine who best exemplifies qualities of medical professionalism. In his address, Dr. Klafta urged our rising third year students to learn lessons from even the smallest interactions during clerkships, and to stay open to every possible specialty choice. He recalled advice given to him as a third year, remarking, “The world desperately needs outstanding physicians in every specialty and subspecialty… we need mediocre physicians in none of them. Each specialty in medicine is noble and worthwhile if practiced expertly. Do what you believe to be great work.”

Among medical students, Caitlin Chicoine, MS3, was selected to receive this year’s Pre-Clinical Student Role Model Award, as the student who best exemplifies professionalism through her compassion, leadership, and dedication to others. She remarked, “The sense of community at Pritzker was something that stood out to me before I was even a student here… We have experienced many highs and some very significant challenges over the past two years, and I cannot imagine going through this experience with anyone else but this class of people.”

Congratulations to all of those who were recognized at this year’s Student Clinician Ceremony!

2014 Award Recipients

L.D.H. Wood Pre-Clinical Teaching Award
Awarded to a faculty teacher from each of the pre-clinical years who is selfless, tireless, and an excellent teacher of medical students.
Selected by First Year Students
James O’Reilly, PhD
Senior Lecturer
Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy

Selected by Second Year Students
Michael Marcangelo, MD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

Students Teaching Students Award
Awarded to a medical student from each of the pre-clinical years for excellence as a teaching assistant.
Selected by First Year Students
Martin Greenwald, MS16

Selected by Second Year Students
Vikrant Jagadeesan, MD’14

Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards
Awarded to residents for demonstrated commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and their families, students, and colleagues.

John Byrne, MD
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Frank Karantonis, MD
Department of Family Medicine, NorthShore University HealthSystem

Andrew Schneider, MD
Department of Surgery

Christopher Schneller, MD
Department of Pediatrics

M. Anthony Sofia, MD’12
Department of Medicine

Philippe-Gerard Tapon, MD’12
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

Pedro Vivar Cruz, MD
Department of Neurology

Faculty Volunteer Award
Awarded to a faculty member for demonstrated commitment to the Student-Run Free Clinics
H. Barrett Fromme, MD, MHPE
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Pre-Clinical Student Peer Role Model Award
Caitlin Chicoine, MS16

Faculty Physician Peer Role Model Award
Jerome Klafta, MD’89
Professor of Anesthesia & Critical Care
Interview with Wei Wei Lee, MD, MPH: Pritzker’s new Asst. Dean of Students

By Kate Kinasz, MS2

KK: For those of us who have not already met you, tell us a little bit about your background: where did you complete your undergraduate degree, go to medical school, and complete your residency?

WL: I grew up in New York City, but my parents emigrated from Taiwan when I was three years old. I went to college at Wellesley and med school at NYU, and completed my residency at Cornell in Internal Medicine on the primary care track at Cornell. I moved to Chicago in 2010 to do a national health corps scholarship, and as I was doing my job search, I saw a position at the University of Chicago in academic medicine that also allowed me to work in the primary care field. It was a great fit. I love that I can do primary care, general internal medicine, and teaching.

KK: What do you do at the University of Chicago Medicine?

WL: I am one of the core faculty members for the Internal Medicine residency, where I teach outpatient topics, which is really exciting. I also do medical education research on how technology use impacts the doctor-patient relationship.

KK: What specifically will you be doing with undergraduate medical students here at Pritzker?

WL: My new position is Assistant Dean of Students and I work closely with Dr. James Woodruff. I will oversee wellness programming for students, and I am going to work on strengthening the wellness committee to get more student involvement and leadership training. I will also be overseeing the free clinics, and I am very excited to be the career advisor for Phemister. I will still be one of the core faculty members developing a curriculum for the interns on the core topics on outpatient clinic, and I will still patients in clinic twice a week.

KK: What was your favorite subject in medical school? Favorite activity?

WL: I had lots of favorites in med school! I trained at Bellevue, which is one of the largest public hospitals in NYC. They see lots of immigrants who do not have access to health care and are uninsured, so it was a wonderful window into healthcare and the healthcare safety net. It made me realize why I went into the field—my parents were immigrants and we often did not have many amenities growing up. It was great to be in that hospital and come full circle and realize what got me into medicine.

KK: What do you hope to accomplish with your new position?

WL: I want to help students develop habits early about making choices to promote wellness. There are so many challenges we face in medicine; being able to think about how you process these challenges and choose healthy habits in terms of lifestyle is important. I want to talk to students to figure out what we can do to support them, and I want to be available to students to talk about what is going on in their lives in order to shape programming and develop these habits. I think it’s important to prioritize your personal life. You need to make sure relationships are healthy, and that you’re taking care of yourself, because that is what recharges you and gives you the strength and ability to be a good physician.

KK: What are you most nervous for in this new role?

WL: I’m trying to push myself to learn all the different roles. I want to make sure all the students I’m supporting are successful. I just want to make sure I get to know as many students as I can. So much of it is going to be just having my door open.

KK: What changes can students expect to see in the Wellness Curriculum?

WL: More student leaders, and more involvement for students within the Pritzker community. Personal professional development is becoming one of the driving forces in competencies with which we want students to graduate. I want to think about how we can incorporate wellness into the curriculum so that they are self-assessing and aware of where they are with health and well-being. We want them to check in regularly and help prevent burn out.

KK: If you have one hour of completely free time, what do you like to do? What about a whole day of free time?

WL: One hour: my husband and I met playing tennis—so I’d work on being able to beat him—which I used to be able to do but can’t do so well anymore.

Whole day: I love traveling. I have lots of family in Asia. They have these markets—street food night markets with delicious and comforting food with local foods and flavors. I would love to walk through them and meet people. They have lots of textiles and other things on sale—it’s a great way to interact with culture.

KK: If you could have any super power what would it be?

WL: Flying! Who wouldn’t want to fly?
On Sunday, August 17, 2014, second year medical students from the Pritzker Chapter of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) traveled to Chicago’s West Ridge neighborhood where they sponsored the first annual Devon Avenue Health Fair. Held at the Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Temple of Chicago in conjunction with members of the Ophthalmology Interest Group (OIG) and the Diabetes Prevention and Management Group (DPMG), the event aimed to educate the South Asian community living on the North Side of Chicago on the importance of maintaining personal health as well as publicize key health issues facing South Asian populations. The event was tremendously successful, serving 50 members of the surrounding community in an area of Chicago where Pritzker students rarely have the opportunity to effect change.

After sharing lunch with attendees at the temple, members of the AAPI board provided a brief educational presentation on the various health issues that face the South Asian community, specifically focusing on diabetes and cardiovascular disease, as well as culturally sensitive lifestyle modifications to improve personal health. Students from AAPI, OIG, and DPMG coordinated to provide a variety of health screenings to attendees, including basic vital check-ups, blood glucose monitoring, and ophthalmologic testing for glaucoma, visual acuity, and field of vision. These screenings were designed to target typical problems that face the South Asian community at large, stemming from metabolic and cardiovascular diseases, as well as to emphasize the importance of taking command of personal health. In addition, Pritzker students led a round of “Bollywood Zumba,” a dance fitness program set to popular Bollywood film songs. Second year students were also joined by Aliya Husain, MD, from the Department of Pathology and advisor to the AAPI Board, who provided health counseling to attendees at the event, as well as Ashley Rohr, MD, from the Department of Ophthalmology, who performed visual exams at the event.

The event was well received by the attendees, who demonstrated considerable interest in the various screenings taking place, and inquired further about how to improve personal health. “There were definitely many challenges in organizing our first health fair, many unique to the community we were trying to serve,” commented AAPI Board Member Raj Bhanvadia, MS2. “However, the enthusiasm that the community showed towards our presence has made me firmly believe that this can be an extremely successful relationship between Pritzker and the Devon and Greater South Asian community.”

Members of the AAPI, OIG, and DPMG groups celebrate a successful health fair.
Fellow Board Member Gaurav Ajmani, MS2 agreed with these sentiments, adding “I think we were able to get the community members talking about their health and excited to try making changes towards a healthier lifestyle. In particular, the community seemed responsive and proud to have local students taking an interest in their health and willing to work with them to make changes. We have the potential to effect long-term change in the health of this community.” Attendees have since reached out to and are working with the AAPI Board to fulfill a greater need for such events, citing the tremendous uninsured South Asian population that resides in Chicago.

The health fair was educational for both attendees and organizers, with many of the medical students who volunteered their time remarking on navigating the challenges of working with a South Asian population. Held in the West Ridge neighborhood on the North Side of Chicago, the health fair took place in a community that Pritzker students do not have the opportunity to serve on a regular basis, but faces a tremendous disparity in health literacy and numbers insured. The AAPI board sought to create an event that targeted health education and hopes to continue to hold the event each year, recognizing the need for health programming among the South Asian community and the excitement from the community during the event. Overall, the event was a great start to a hopefully long-lasting partnership between Pritzker students and this specific immigrant community in Chicago.
Saturday, July 12th, 2014—With the last of the morning’s rain clouds dissipating into the afternoon sun, the Vincennes Senior Center in Englewood became an attractive destination for the residents of this South Side neighborhood as the location of the annual Englewood Community Fair. Each year, the Institute of Women Today, Percy L. Julian High School, and Pritzker’s Maria Shelter Free Clinic co-sponsor this fair that brings medical screenings, health education, healthy foods and fun-filled activities to this community.

This year, twenty organizations volunteered their time at the fair. Three student groups from the Pritzker School of Medicine—the Washington Park Free Clinic, the Diabetes Prevention Group and Mission Nutrition—provided educational information on pediatric health, diabetes, and healthy foods, respectively. Organizations and individuals from the greater University of Chicago campus also aided the efforts to enhance health care on the South Side. Campus organizations including South Side Diabetes, Healthy Relationships, Girls in the Game, and the University of Chicago School of Social Services provided resources to the community, and nurse practitioner Donna Christianson provided free clinical breast exams to women.

Family Medicine physician Dr. Sonia Oyola and YogaCare’s Greg van Hyfte, a graduate of the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration, taught 30-minute beginning yoga classes to the attendees.

With the street of the Vincennes Senior Center blocked off to traffic, attendees sat around tables on the sidewalk to eat turkey burgers and fresh fruit, laughing and conversing with each other. Women danced to the DJ music, while they watched their kids toss Frisbees, footballs and water balloons to each other in the streets. The music was only interrupted when other performances happened or when raffle tickets were drawn.

With each hourly raffle drawing, three children had the chance to win toys and three adults had the chance to win gift cards. Anthony Ingram, Jr, a Chicago-based rapper, and Reverend Daniel Garrett of the Spirit Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church, delivered solo performances. MS2 students Lola Oladini and Shakeela Faulkner, along with Anthony and Kim, two adolescent residents of Maria Shelter, performed an interactive skit that allowed for engaging audience participation.

The audience also enjoyed juggling acts by a clown, who made animals from balloons for the children and booths staffed by Pritzker students for face-painting, bracelet making, bubble-blowing, hula-hooping, and other sports.

The University’s participation in the fair was valuable not only to Englewood residents, but to university members as well. “Giving back to my South Side neighbors by teaching yoga is one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve had this year,” says Dr. Oyola.

Jessica Marot, MS2, reflected, “I volunteered at the beading and face-painting booth, where I engaged children in creating art while their parents and grandparents took advantage of the health information that was distributed at other booths, and felt I connected with attendees in a meaningful way.”

One woman thanked me and said that they rarely have the opportunity to have fun together outside as a community—that alone was valuable.

remarked Laura Christianson, MS2

Vendor participation in the Englewood Fair was not unique to the University of Chicago. Organizations from the greater Chicagoland area that participated include Chicago Women’s AIDS Project, YWCA, Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, Friend Family Health Center, Imagine Englewood If, and Family Focus. In addition, health professionals were able to join interdisciplinary efforts this year, as students from the Chicago College of Pharmacy at Midwestern University organized a mobile HIV testing unit to be present and also donated ARV drug information sheets and home self-test HIV kits to the community.

Besides being an opportunity to improve health on the South Side, the fair also allowed Englewood residents an opportunity to bond and have fun in a safe environment.

Attendees left the fair with smiles on their faces full of health packets, prizes and food, leaving the students grateful for the opportunity to serve their community and to know its residents better. “One woman thanked me and said that they rarely have the opportunity to have fun together outside as a community—that alone was valuable,” remarked Laura Christianson, MS2.
Project Ambition: Pritzker HPREP Day 2014

By Lola Oladini, MS2

On Saturday, May 24, the halls of the Pritzker School of Medicine were filled with 25 high school students who came for a day of mentorship and medicine-related activities. Students from Instituto de Health Sciences Career Academy, Walter Payton College Prep, Jones College Prep, and Urban Prep Academy visited our campus to get hands-on experience in a medical school. Thanks to our four pre-med undergraduate and 12 medical student volunteers, these high school students were able to spend part of their Memorial Day weekend in a unique way: learning CPR, dissecting lab samples, and hearing from Pritzker professionals.

Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP) is a national program under the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) that aims to increase the numbers of underprivileged and minority students who enter into the health professions by providing longitudinal mentorship, exposure, and opportunities to students who come from resource-limited environments. Sixteen of the students were returning students from the six-session winter HPREP, where students had the opportunity to research a health career of interest under the guidance of a medical student mentor.

We began with icebreakers to foster an atmosphere of openness, since many students were meeting each other for the first time. The icebreakers were led by M2s Karla Garcia-Heurta, Morgan Covington, and Pamela Peters. We continued with a role-playing scenario about the process of finding a mentor while in high school that allowed the high-school students an opportunity to try out ideas on how to interact with different kinds of mentors.

Afterwards, we took a trip to the old ICU in Mitchell, which now serves as the new Medical Simulation Center. The students were welcomed by the Center’s staff director Melissa Caepert and her team members, who graciously volunteered to work with the students over the holiday weekend. The students learned about the process of CPR, and they were also introduced to clinical reasoning and differential diagnoses by Adebola Giwa, MD, a pediatric resident at Comer Children’s Hospital. Sonia Oyola, MD, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, joined Dr. Giwa to discuss clinical reasoning in relation to diagnosing a sick pediatric manikin with which the students interacted at one of the stations.

The students then had the opportunity to hear from Doriane Miller, MD, Director of the Urban Health Initiative, about her own experiences in finding mentorship as she pursued her academic interests. During lunchtime, Seyi Fayanju, MS2, presented about diabetes prevention through healthy lifestyle.

After lunch, the students were led in a pig-heart dissection by MD/PhD students Courtney Orsbon, MS3, Victoria Lee, MS2, and recent Pritzker alumni Theodore Hart, MD’14. The high school students received help in dissecting from Pritzker MS2 student mentors Jad AbiMansour, Sujay Kulshrestha, and Ala Soofian, along with a group of undergraduates led by Omoluyi Adesanya and Robert DeLeora.

After the dissection, we spent the last part of the day discussing summer plans and potential scholarship programs with the students. Small group mentors who weren’t previously mentioned included Julie Mhlaba, MS3, Victoria Thomas, MS2, and Rebeca Ortiz-Weissberg, MS2 (who also took pictures for the event).

In the fall, we will be recruiting students from the previously mentioned schools for the 2014-2015 HPREP, and we look forward to further establishing partnerships with high schools in the Chicagoland area and expanding the HPREP program in order to have a greater impact in the community. Contact Lola Oladini at oladini@uchicago.edu if you are interested in participating!
When Cancer Isn’t Just a Word

By Laura Christianson, MS2

This article was originally published on HIPPO Reads, an online journal, on May 23, 2014. The following is an excerpt; the full article can be found at read.hipporeads.com/when-cancer-aint-just-a-word-translating-medicines-native-language.

A medical education is a language immersion program. I’m learning to say venereal instead of sexually transmitted, papules instead of pimples, and neoplasm instead of cancer.

The goal of medicine is to treat patients, most of whom don’t speak the same medical language we learn in our lectures and textbooks. Being an accurate translator is a science and an art requiring up-to-date information about diseases, patient preferences (how much they want to know), and patient knowledge (how much they understand). The standard approach to translation involves assuming patients don’t want or need to know more than the minimum, and that patients understand enough to follow the prescribed course of treatment. Doctors discuss patient findings most extensively outside patient rooms, and often decide not to share the meaning of the findings in their entirety—to protect and help the patient, or to protect and help the doctor.

What’s in a word is more than just language—there’s assignment of culpability, patient personhood, a world of feeling that is often, and for critical reason, removed from the linguistics of medical speak. In “What’s in a Word: The distancing function of language in medicine” (Journal of Medical Humanities, 1992), Psychiatrist Dr. David Mintz analyzes how medical language distances doctors from patients and shifts culpability. He writes about the different ways medical professionals could state chemotherapy is no longer working:

We [as doctors] find it easier to say ‘she failed on chemotherapy’ than to say ‘chemotherapy failed her.’ This shifting of blame has the unconscious effect both of relegating our own inadequacies to the shadows and of making the patient seem less deserving of our solicitude and sorrow.

In traditional medical facilities, patients are described as cases and their diseases are treated as discrete problems to be fixed, rather than as the results of a complex interplay between biology, psychology, and sociology. With this distance from patients, doctors then have license to perform invasive and harsh procedures in the name of solving the health problem, rather than considering the most humane path in the particular patient’s interest.

This creates a medical world similar to a war zone, with a corresponding vocabulary. Dr. Mintz describes these similarities in speech:

A pathogen invades the body, penetrating its defenses. The doctor orders some scans and then antibiotics to be given to fight the infection... The patient is considered to be passive; he or she is simply the battleground between the doctor and the disease... [This] produces a one-sided, authoritarian relationship between doctor and patient. The doctor becomes a general, issuing orders. The patient obeys. This metaphor also encourages a very active treatment, which may be proper in many cases, but should not be automatic. Technologies and treatments are weapons. In medicine, as in war, the biggest weapon becomes the best weapon, and more is better.

This description fits well with my experience in hospitals where I see patients defer to doctors during decision-making and passively await their fate to be decided; they give up their autonomy and sense of self in an attempt to be healed. Yet recent research has called this approach into question, demonstrating patients prefer to have accurate and more detailed information about their health—and that having this information may improve health outcomes.

One initiative dedicated to including patients as active participants in their health care is OpenNotes, a national initiative giving patients access to their visit notes. Research shows that with time, having open notes tends to prompt an evolution in medical practice that involves accepting feedback from patients and colleagues, and having further discussions with patients. These findings were described in the New England Journal of Medicine, along with the authors’ vision for medical notes co-authored by physicians, patients, and their families. In “The Road Toward Fully Transparent Medical Records,” Drs. Darer, Delbanco, Elmore and Ms. Walker write:

Large majorities [of patients] reported having better recall and understanding of their care plans and feeling more in control of their health care. Moreover, two thirds of patients who were taking medications reported improved adherence. Doctors reported little effect on their work lives and were surprised by how few patients appeared troubled by what they read. Although the notes were not formally evaluated, the majority of doctors reported not modifying their tone or content.

If medicinal care continues along the path of OpenNotes, we will soon have white boards in every patient room and rounds conducted at patient bedside, with patient participation and a common language of collaboration. While this collaboration may not necessarily save lives, it will create stronger, and more individualized treatment paths, preventing the “hacksaw” from entering the ER or the doctor’s vocabulary. Language, I’ve learned in my nascent medical studies, can not only harm, but also heal.
HONORS AND AWARDS

Student Achievements

DARA ADAMS, MS3 presented her poster, titled “A missed opportunity to improve patient satisfaction? Older patient perceptions of inpatient communication with their primary care physician,” at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society in Orlando, FL this past May. This project was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Vineet Arora.

HASSENIN AL-KHERSAN, MS2 received the Fight for Sight Basil V. Worgul Lens Research Summer Student Fellowship. Fight for Sight is the first nonprofit organization in the United States to promote eye research, formed in 1946 as the National Council to Combat Blindness (NCCB). Hasenin will be working on “Connexin channel and hemichannel function in Cx46fs380 mouse lenses,” a study looking at the pathophysiology of a specific connexin mutation that causes genetically inherited cataracts. This work will be conducted under the guidance of Dr. Eric Beyer.

KENNETH BARSHOP, MS3 authored three abstracts that were invited for presentation at the Annual Meeting for the American College of Gastroenterology. He is the first author of the abstracts titled “An Assessment of Gastric and Small Bowel Pressure Profiles in Diabetics with Gastroparesis Before and During 28 Days of Treatment with the Motilin Receptor Agonist Camicinal” and “Duodenal Rather Than Gastric Motility Parameters Correlate with Symptom Severity in Patients with Diabetic Gastroparesis,” which were accepted for oral and poster presentation, respectively. He also co-authored the abstract, titled “Patients with IBS-D have lower disease-specific quality of life than IBS-C,” which he will also deliver as a poster presentation. All three abstracts will be published in the October Supplementary of the American Journal for Gastroenterology. Kenneth will deliver them at the American Congress of Gastroenterology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA this October. These projects were related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. David Rubin.

CLAIRE BEVERIDGE, MS4 won the chance to represent the University of Chicago at the regional American College of Physicians (ACP) conference for an oral clinical vignette presentation, “A Spontaneous Painful Complication,” that she gave at the ACP Case Conference. Alan Schurle, MD ‘14 and current preliminary intern in internal medicine at our hospital, will be representing us in the resident competition.

CRAIG BROWN, MS3 delivered an oral presentation entitled “Reflux Control is Important in the Management of Barrett’s Esophagus–Results from a Retrospective Cohort of 1830 Patients” at Digestive Disease Week in Chicago, IL this past May. At this conference, Craig also presented his poster, titled “Predicting Progression in Barrett’s Esophagus–Results from a Retrospective Cohort of 1830 Patients,” These projects were related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Michael Ujiki.

CAITLIN CHICOINE, MS3 received the 2014 Pre-Clinical Student Role Model Award from the University of Chicago Physician and Medical Student Professionalism Committee this past June. Caitlin was recognized by her peers as the rising third year student who best exemplifies professionalism through her compassion, leadership, and dedication to others.

LAURA CHRISTIANSON, MS2 attended the Leadership and Education Program for Students in Integrative Medicine in Stockbridge, MA this past June. This was under the guidance of Dr. Sonia Oyola.

CLaire Beveridge, MS4

Alan Schurle, MD ‘14
Arjun Dayal, MS3 delivered his oral presentation, titled “A Mobile Application for Direct Observation Evaluation of Resident Physicians using ACGME Next Accreditation System Milestones,” at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine in Dallas, TX this past May. This project was completed under the guidance of Dr. Christine Babcock.

Christine Feng, MS3 presented her poster, titled “Simultaneously Integrated Boost (SiB) Improves Sparing of Normal Tissues in Locally Advanced Cervical Cancer While Reducing Overall Treatment Time,” at the American Society for Radiation Oncology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA this month. This project was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Hania Al-Hallaq.

Cassandra Fritz, MS4 delivered her oral presentation, titled “SEALS: Intermediate Outcome Evaluation of an Innovative Pipeline Curriculum,” as part of the plenary presentation at the Midwest Society of General Internal Medicine in Chicago, IL this month. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Monica Vela.

Scott Goldberg, MS3 is the first author of a Letter to the Editor, titled “Make patients the priority, not profits,” published in the Chicago Tribune this past May.

Solomon Greenberg, MS4 is the first author of an article, titled “A novel mutation in the Albumin gene (R218S) causing familial dysalbuminemic hyperthyroxinemia in a family of Bangladeshi extraction,” published in Thyroid this past June. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Roy Weiss.

Allison Grubbs, MS3 presented her poster, titled “Impact of KDPI on Shared Decision Making,” at the World Transplant Congress in San Francisco, CA this past July. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Lainie Ross.

Michael Hayes, MS4 is the first author of an article, titled “Comparison of efficacy, pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity between infliximab mono- versus combination therapy in ulcerative colitis,” published in the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology this past June. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Atsushi Sakuraba.

Justin Hellman, MS4 is the first author of two articles, titled “Biopsy of internal mammary chain lymph nodes found incidentally during autologous breast reconstruction,” published in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery this past June; and “Dexamethasone 0.7mg implant for the treatment of recalcitrant radiation maculopathy after proton beam radiotherapy for adenocystic carcinoma of the maxillary sinus,” published in the Journal of Ocular Diseases and Therapeutics this past July. These articles emanated from his work completed under the guidance of Dr. Seenu Hariprasad.

Ethan Jaffee, MS3 delivered his oral presentation, titled “Understanding Pit ‘falls’ of Poor Vision Among Hospitalized Patients: Associations with Social Support, Health Literacy, and Falls after Discharge,” at the Midwest Society of General Medicine Regional Meeting in Chicago, IL this September. This project was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Valerie Press.

Solomon Greenberg, MS4 is the first author of an article, titled “A novel mutation in the Albumin gene (R218S) causing familial dysalbuminemic hyperthyroxinemia in a family of Bangladeshi extraction,” published in Thyroid this past June. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Roy Weiss.
MICHAEL RAMIREZ, MS3 presented his poster, titled “A novel imaging tool for staging chronic rhino sinusitis: correlation with nasal symptoms,” at the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL this September. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Jayant Pinto.

SAMMITA SATYANARAYAN, MS3 presented a poster, titled “The importance of women in the lives of Indian MSM at high risk for HIV,” at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference in Washington, DC this past May. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. John Schneider.

KUNMI SOBOWALE, MS4 was awarded first-place in the first-ever American Sci-dol Communication Competition at the MIT museum this past June. The competition featured ten Communicating Science Conference attendees who presented short, digestible “pop talks” of their research. This project was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Renslow Sherer. Kunmi also delivered an oral presentation titled, “Treating Depression in Low-Income Women: Pilot Study of a combined Psychotherapy and Livelihood Intervention,” at the Fogarty Global Health Fellowship Orientation at the National Institutes of Health in Vietnam this past July. This presentation stemmed from Kunmi’s research as a 2013-2014 Fogarty and Pritzker Fellow.

LESLIE MATAYA, MS3 presented her poster, titled “Restricted Role of the Liver Donor Risk Index in Shared Decision-Making,” at the World Transplant Congress in San Francisco, CA this past July. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Lainie Ross.

JACQUELINE “BEANIE” MEADOW, MS3 presented her poster, titled “Living Kidney Donors and Their Recipients: Who Wants to Know What?” at the World Transplant Congress in San Francisco, CA this past July. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Lainie Ross.

JOSE MORALES, MS3 presented a poster, titled “De-efferented Motor Cortex Provides a Viable Source of Neural Activity Command Signals for Centrally-Implanted Brain Machine Interfaces,” at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA this past April. He received an American Academy of Neurology Student Scholarship to attend. This project was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Nicholas Hatsopoulos.

AMRITA MUKHOPADHYAY, MS3 presented her poster, titled “Patient Education Materials for a Low Health Literacy Population,” at the Association of American Medical Colleges Integrating Quality Meeting: Improving Value Through Clinical Transformation, Education and Science in Rosemont, IL this past June. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Jill Huded, her mentor at Northwestern University. Hila Calev, MS3 also contributed to this project.

ASHLEY NASSIRI, MS4 delivered an oral presentation, titled “Impact of physician preference on supply costs for thyroidectomy,” at the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies World Congress and American Head & Neck Society Annual Meeting in New York City, NY this past July. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Alexander Langerman.
EMILY STOCKERT, MS4 delivered an oral presentation, titled “Dynamic Operational Mapping: Tracking Key Decision Points in Microvascular Breast Reconstruction and Their Impact on Surgical Teamwork,” at the Midwestern Association of Plastic Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, IL this past May. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Alexander Langerman. Emily is also the first author of an article, titled “Assessing the magnitude and costs of intra-operative inefficiencies attributable to surgical instrument trays,” published in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons this past July. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Alexander Langerman.

JACOB TOWER, MS4 presented a poster, titled “The Delto-Acromial Perforator Flap,” at the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies World Congress and American Head & Neck Society Annual Meeting in New York City, NY this past July. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Lawrence Gottlieb.

IBORO UMANA, MS2 was selected as a Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) Fellow this past August by the Society for Neuroscience. This two year program is designed to provide underrepresented and diverse neuroscience trainees with career development and networking opportunities.

ROBIN WAGNER, MS3 presented a poster, titled “Relationship of Awake Bispectral Index to Preoperative Memory Formation; Relationship of Awake Bispectral Index to Postoperative Memory Formation,” at the International Anesthesia Research Society Annual Conference in Montreal, QC this past May. This project was related to SRP and S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. David Glick. This project was done in collaboration with Michael Allain, MS4 and Xiwen Zheng, MD ’14.

ADAM WEINER, MS3 is the first author of two articles, titled “Population-based analysis of treatment modalities and survival for clinically localized small-cell carcinoma of the prostate,” published in Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases this past July, and “National trends in the management of low- and intermediate-risk prostate cancer in the United States,” published in the Journal of Urology this past August. These projects were related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Scott Eggener, the latter related to previous SRP and S&D work. Adam was also co-author on the article, titled “Metastatic small cell carcinoma of the prostate: Population-based analysis of patient characteristics and treatment paradigms,” published in Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations this past July. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Scott Eggener and Dr. Russell Szmulewitz.

JACOB YOUNG, MS2 presented a poster titled, “Temporal Discounting Associated with Self-Control in Everyday Life,” at the Annual Association of Psychological Science Convention in San Francisco, CA this past June. Jacob is also first author on two reviews, the first article, titled “Therapeutic Cell Carriers: A Potential Road to Cure Glioma,” published in Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics this past June, and the second article, titled “Advances in stem cells, induced pluripotent stem cells, and engineered cells: drug delivery vehicles for anti-glioma therapy,” published in Expert Opinion on Drug Delivery this past July. These projects were related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Maciej Lesniak.
Faculty Accolades

KOHAR JONES, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor received the 2014 Faculty Service Award from the University Community Service Center (UCSC) this past May. Dr. Jones was recognized for her contributions to others through public service.

MONICA VELA, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs received a 2014 Alpha Omega Alpha Fellow in Leadership Award from the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society this past May. With the support of this Fellowship, Dr. Vela attended the course “The Science and Practice of Leading Yourself,” led by AOA Board member Dr. Wiley “Chip” Souba, Dean for the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

Joanna Perdomo and Manas Nigam, both MS4s, help Kate Blythe, Director of Student Affairs and Programs, Holly J. Humphrey, MD’83, Dean for Medical Education, and James Woodruff, MD, Associate Dean of Students, take part in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. For videos on the Challenge and Pritzker’s participation in it, please visit http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/about/news/PSOMIceBucketChallenge.shtml.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Expanding the Pritzker Family**

We welcome all those who have “joined” the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine family!

IIboro Umana, MS2, & Jasmine Taylor, MD’14
Nigerian wedding, July 26, 2014 in Atlanta, GA
The purpose of this ceremony is to unite the two families. The individual union will occur at their wedding on October 4, 2014.

Stuart Davidson, MS2, & Nicole Inman married June 21, 2014 in Chicago, IL

Adam Paul Schaefer, born on July 31, 2014 to Noura Dabbouseh, MD’11 & Paul Schaefer

James Mikolajczyk, born on July 25, 2014 to Marina and Adam Mikolajczyk, MD’11

Marni Hillinger, MD’08, and Colin Walsh, MD’08 in New York

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**Calendar of Events**

**OCTOBER**
7  Lowell T. Coggeshall Memorial Lecture
18  All-Society Field Day

**NOVEMBER**
14-15  MacLean Conference on Clinical Medical Ethics
20  Medical Education Day

**DECEMBER**
1  Deadline to take USMLE Step 2 CK and CS
5  End of Quarter Extended Social Rounds

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The Pritzker Pulse, Autumn 2014