

PreHealth Announcements

November 2009

I. Volunteer Opportunities

Title: Remote Area Medical Volunteer Opportunities

Description: RAM offers volunteer opportunities similar to Doctors Without Borders, but within the U.S., as well as abroad. See their website: <http://www.ramusa.org/learn/volunteers.htm>. Besides doctors, nurses, dentists, and veterinarians, EMTs, optical lab technicians, and vet techs can volunteer. The most frequent sort of expedition consists of vision, dental, and women's health services in Appalachia. Each month, our volunteers spend a weekend providing these services to communities which have invited us to help. While the expedition may only last for two or three days, literally months of work go into each one. A RAM service that may surprise some is our veterinary team. It consists of veterinarians and veterinary technicians; our team provides free spay and neuter services, along with other treatments as needed. While our most common veterinary patients are dogs and cats, we also treat large animals in rural communities.

Website: <http://www.ramusa.org/learn/volunteers.htm>

Title: Unite For Sight's Global Impact Corps

Description: All volunteers participating in Unite For Sight's international programs are Global Impact Fellows. They participate daily with local ophthalmic nurses, local optometrists, and local ophthalmologists to eliminate patient barriers to care and to facilitate comprehensive year-round eye care for patients living in extreme poverty. Through hands-on, structured training, volunteers gain a comprehensive understanding about best practices in volunteerism, global health, and international development. Global Impact Fellows gain skills and are nurtured to become new leaders in global health. Additionally, Global Impact Fellows may participate in the Global Impact Lab, an optional program for volunteers interested in pursuing global health research. Volunteer for 10 days, 20 days, 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 10 weeks, or more. Locations in Ghana, Honduras, and India.

Website: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/volunteer-abroad>

Title: Grillo Healthcare Information Center

Description: Trained volunteers provide confidential, assisted research on health care questions at no charge. We are interested in CU students who can devote two hours per week at the Boulder Public Library. We may also have an opportunity for a native Spanish-speaking volunteer at the Lafayette Public Library

Contact: Chris Engleman: 303 441-4144

Website: www.GrilloCenter.Org

Title: Volunteer Connection Database

Website: www.volunteerconnection.net.

Title: Reach Out and Read (ROAR) at Clinica Family Services

Description: ROAR is a great, evidence-based, national project to promote literacy in health care settings. There are openings with ROAR at all clinic locations (Boulder, Lafayette, Pecos, Thornton).

Contact: Pamela Tims Bauduit, Volunteer Coordinator, phone: (303) 665-3036 ext. 182; email: PBauduit@clinica.org.

Title: Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District

Description: Volunteers wanted

Website: <http://www.bouldermountainfire.org/node/109>.

Title: Move to End Sexual Assault (MESA)

Description: MESA has several volunteer opportunities: 24 hour Rape Crisis Hotline, Outreach Volunteer Corp, Peers Building Justice, and Men Standing Up. These programs vary, as far as training hours and time commitment.

Website: <http://www.movingtoendsexualassault.org>

Contact: Mary Friedrichs 303-443-0400

Title: Remote Area Medical Volunteer Opportunities

Description: RAM offers volunteer opportunities similar to Doctors without Borders, but within the U.S. as well as abroad. Besides doctors, nurses, dentists and veterinarians, EMTs and vet techs can volunteer.

Website: <http://www.ramusa.org/learn/volunteers.htm>.

Title: American Academy of Family Physicians Volunteer Opportunities in Primary Care

Description: This is a listing of volunteer opportunities in the health care field that are primary care based.

Website: <http://fmignet.aafp.org/x53.xml>

Contact: Ashley DeVilbiss 913-906-6000 x6722 adevilbi@aaafp.org

II. Research Programs

Title: NIH Research Opportunities for 2010

Description: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) offers several different programs, including summer internships for college students, undergraduate scholarships, year-long research awards for recent college graduates, programs for college graduates interested in health disparities, and more. Check it out!

Website: <http://www.training.nih.gov/student/>

Title: Summer Cancer Research Fellowships

Description: Fulltime commitment, 8 weeks, ~ **June 4 to August 6, 2010**

Stipend amounts: for 8 week fellowships for college students (undergrad and grad) in 2009 are: \$2,600 or \$325/week

Applications open: **December 1, 2009**

Applications deadline: **February 1, 2010**

Website: <http://www.uccc.info/for-healthcare-professional/cancer-center/education/ccfellowship/index.aspx>

Title: Infectious Diseases Research Opportunity for December Grad

Description: 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**.

Note: Those who are applying to MD or PhD or MD/PhD programs are eligible. (*for eligibility criteria, see website below)

Contact: Paula Davis, 412-648-2066, pkd100@pitt.edu

Website: <http://www.healthdiversity.pitt.edu/programs/upirta.php>

III. Workshops/ Courses

Title: Interview Workshops in November and December (Final Two)

When: Monday, **November 30**, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

OR

Thursday, **December 3**, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: University Club 11 (basement)

Topic: These workshops are designed for any prehealth students who want to develop their interview skills, whether you are interviewing this fall, or not for several years. The workshop will present general information and answer questions on a variety of topics including what to expect on interview day, professional behavior, appropriate attire, types of questions, how to prepare, etc.

Registration go to: aac.colorado.edu/group, choose Prehealth Workshops, then choose Interview Workshop

Cancellations: If you sign up for the workshop and find you will not be able to attend, please cancel your registration at least 24 hours in advance so

that someone else can have your seat. To cancel, go to the registration site and sign in. It will tell you that you have an existing reservation and give you an option to cancel.

Title: 1st Semester Biology Option in Spring 2010

Description: If you are planning to take the MCDB Intro Biology sequence (MCDB1150/1151 and 2150/2151), but wish to start the sequence this spring, CHEN 2810, MWF 12:00-12:50, Biology for Engineers, is accepted by the MCDB department and by CU School of Medicine as equivalent to MCDB 1150. You will still need to take the MCDB1151 lab.

Title: IPHY 4010: Perspectives in Health and Medicine, Offered Spring 2010

Description: IPHY 4010-001: Perspectives in Health and Medicine will be offered in Spring, 2010, on Wednesday evenings, 5:00 – 6:50 p.m. It is a 1-credit, 2-hour seminar where students will explore elements of health care practice which fall beyond the basic science prerequisites. Speakers on such diverse topics as applied bioethics, cultural aspects of practice, and research in international medicine will present challenges to the undergraduate student who expresses interest in a health-related field. You must be a sophomore or above to register.

Please note: CUConnect does not describe this seminar accurately. There is no prerequisite, it is open to non-majors, and it is not a critical thinking topics course.

Questions: Contact Penny Bennett, PhD(c)

Contact: penny.bennett@colorado.edu

Title: PreVet Club Event, December 2, 2009

Description: For our final meeting of the semester, we will be having Dr. Fitch as a guest speaker. Dr. Fitch is a large animal veterinarian and has many great experiences and tips to share. Free food and drink provided.

When: Wednesday, **December 2, 2009**, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Ramaley N1B75

Contact: Eryn.Spraitz@Colorado.EDU

Website: www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/prevetclub

Title: CSCI 4830/7000: Games for Health

Description: Games for Health provides students an overview of health and wellness informatics initiatives that encourage people to be physically active. In addition, students will work in teams to create a game for health.

Time: Tuesday and Thursday – 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Place: ECCS 1B14

Students will contribute \$75 for projects.

Prerequisites: None (Students should be comfortable with tinkering and iterative

design.) This is an interdisciplinary course – students from other disciplines are definitely welcome and will be paired with computing students for course projects.

Website: <http://www.cs.colorado.edu/~ksiek/Teaching/Games4Health/Home.html>

Objectives:

- Learn about health and wellness informatics
- Develop ideas about the role of technology to improve health
- Understand the interplay of social interaction and technology for health design
- Acquire practical research-oriented skills for transdisciplinary research

Instructor: Professor Katie Siek is an assistant professor in Computer Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she leads the Wellness Innovation and Interaction Lab.

Title: General Chemistry Changes

In case you have not heard, the department has decided to split CHEM 1111 and 1131 into lecture and lab courses.

CHEM 1111 will be CHEM 1113 (lecture) and CHEM 1114 (lab) – beginning spring 2010.

CHEM 1131 will be CHEM 1133 (lecture) and CHEM 1134 (lab) – starting in summer 2010.

Students will be required to take the general chemistry lecture and lab as co-requisites.

For exceptions, see Anne McWilliams in Ekeley M199.

Title: Applied Clinical Research Course (IPHY 3500), Spring 2010

Description: IPHY 3500 is a 2-credit Applied Clinical Research course offered through CU Boulder, but which will be taught at Denver Health. It is a **Controlled Enrollment** course, so you cannot sign up without permission.

Please read information below carefully before replying.

A. REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Have reliable transportation to Denver
- 2) Be available for lecture, which will be held at Denver Health Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (don't forget to plan for travel time). Lab portions (one 4-hour block per week) can be more flexibly scheduled, including weekends or evenings.
- 3) Have completed the prerequisite courses: A year of general biology (MCDB 1150-2150, or EBIO 1210-1220, or the equivalent) and one semester of organic chemistry (CHEM 3311)
- 4) Pass criminal background check covering the last 7 years
- 5) Provide proof of current medical insurance coverage
- 6) Supply evidence that you have had these relevant immunizations: evidence that you have immune status for a) Measles, b) Rubella, c) Chicken Pox, and d) have completed immunization for Hepatitis B; e) date of last tetanus shot; f)

evidence that you have had a PPD test in the last year (if you have a past history of a positive TB skin test, you will have to provide evidence that an annual assessment to rule out active tuberculosis has been done); g) you must also certify that you have not had a smallpox vaccination within 21 days of starting the lab portion of the course.

B. RECOMMENDED (to be used if there are more applicants than spaces):

- 1) Premedical focus and/or previous research experience
- 2) GPA of 3.5 or better
- 3) Senior undergraduate standing

C. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introducing fundamental concepts of clinical research to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine or medical research. In addition to lectures introducing students to research design, errors in research, and basic biostatistics, there will be significant emphasis on participation in on-going medical research at Denver Health Medical Center, University of Colorado Hospital, and The Children's Hospital. This unique experience will provide students with first-hand exposure to all aspects of clinical research.

D. APPLY FOR REGISTRATION: If you meet the requirements and are interested in registering for this course, please email anne.bekoff@colorado.edu. In the email, please confirm that you meet requirements A.1,2,3. Please also include your year (SR, JR, ALUM, etc.), your overall and major GPA, and a brief description of any research/honors thesis in which you have been involved (if any). If you are invited to apply for the course, you will be asked to provide more information to meet A.4,5,6.

E. FUTURE: This course is typically offered every fall and spring semester.

**Title: MD/PhD Career Development Workshop and Symposium,
Jan. 15-16, 2010**

When: Friday – Saturday, **January 15-16, 2010**

Where: Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX

Description: The MD/PhD Programs of Baylor College of Medicine and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's Medical School and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center will host a special Translational Research Symposium and an MD/PhD Career Development Workshop the next day. Information about these programs can be found at <http://gsbs.uth.tmc.edu/symposium.htm>. The Symposium may be of special interest to undergraduates interested in MD/PhD programs. The Workshop has been specifically designed for current and prospective MD/PhD students.

Costs: Both the Symposium and Workshop are open and there is no charge to

attend, but visiting students must register to attend the Workshop by **December 31, 2009**. Some travel funds are also available for prospective MD/PhD students to attend the symposium and workshop. The deadline to submit an application for travel award is **November 15, 2009** and instructions can be found on the website.

Website: <http://gsbs.uth.tmc.edu/symposium.htm>

Contact: Patricia.Cruz@uth.tmc.edu or call 713-500-9874

Title: PSYC Statistics Now Acceptable to CU SOM

Description: After several years of not accepting PSYC 3101 for the Math requirement at CU School of Medicine, I have an agreement from the Dean that they will be accepting it from now on. Most other medical schools already accept it. CU SOM will also continue to accept IPHY 2800 and MATH 2510 for the math prerequisite.

Title: ECELA Medical Spanish/Shadowing

Description: ECELA programs start any Monday, for 2-24 weeks; one-on-one shadowing in your field; 12 Levels of Spanish, 6 student classes; daily cultural activities & weekend trips; volunteering opportunities available; study in multiple countries seamlessly

Website: www.ecela.com

Contact: 1-866-577-8693; info@ecel.com

IV. Schools/Academic Programs

Title: SMDEP Applications for 2010 Opens November 1, 2009

Description: 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 schools. SMDEP is implemented at 12 program sites across the nation.

Application opens: **November 1, 2009**

Application deadline: **March 1, 2010**

All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early!

Website: for additional information and to access the online application, visit www.smdep.org

Title: Undergraduate Pre-health Program (UPP) for 2010

Description: The University of Colorado Denver-Anschutz Medical Campus Office of Diversity and Inclusion is pleased to announce that we are seeking applications for the 2010 Undergraduate Pre-health Program (UPP). We have been able to provide this program for the past five years.

By participating in this program, students will be prepared to attend one

or more health professions training programs, thus increasing the number of highly qualified, underrepresented students in the health care professions applicant pool. Participants will also learn about diseases that are impacting their community and about the prevention and treatment options for these diseases.

Students will enroll in a 12-month Undergraduate Pre-Health Program. Topics will include Health Disparities in underserved communities and careers and opportunities in Health Care and research. The courses will be taught by distinguished University of Colorado Denver-Anschutz Medical Campus faculty and will consist of lectures, demonstrations, and laboratory research.

The program will start in May with an Orientation. Then the participants will participate in an 8-week summer program. After the summer program, the participants will be required to attend Saturday Academies once a month, from September 2010 through May 2011.

The curriculum of the summer program will focus on diseases and health-related practices that disproportionately affect underserved communities: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV infection, child and adult immunizations, and drug addiction. Participants in the Undergraduate Pre-Health Program will meet monthly for Saturday Academies to attend developmental workshops that will cover everything from health disparities to study skills. All participants will be required to take one of the test and prep-courses necessary to apply to medical, pharmacy, nursing, dental, or other health profession programs (i.e., DAT, MCAT, or GRE). Financial assistance will be provided to participants based on need to take the test and prep-courses. During the summer, institute participants will shadow health professionals, learn about health disparities, conduct research, and complete personal statements and applications to apply to health professional schools.

Eligibility: Students are selected on the basis of academic record, achievements, and interest in the healthcare professions. We encourage students from all underrepresented groups or categories to apply (e.g., first generation college attendee, low income/financial need, first language not English, rural/underserved background, disability, or ethnic identity as African American, Hispanic, American Indian, or Asian American). Applicants must have completed at least one year of college (24 credits) by June 2010 (freshman or sophomore status), and maintained a minimum GPA of 3.3 overall.

Application consists of:

Application Form

Two (2) letters of recommendation (at least one from science faculty)

A personal statement on your career goals and explain how this program will contribute to those goals.

Current transcript (copy acceptable)

Interview

Questions: Please contact Solicia.Lopez@ucdenver.edu or 303-724-8003

Application: To request application information and application form, reply to anne.bekoff@colorado.edu

Deadline: All application materials due in one package on **December 18, 2009**, by 5:00 p.m.

Title: WCU-COM – New College of Osteopathic Medicine

Description: William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg, Mississippi received provisional accreditation from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation last weekend and has joined AACOM. We are working to add them to the AACOMAS application service now and anticipate that applicants should be able to submit a designation for WCU COM by noon, Monday, September 21. WCU COM is the twenty-sixth college of osteopathic medicine in the US. - An online College Information Book page will be added to the AACOM www site at <http://www.aacom.org/people/colleges/Pages/default.aspx>

Website: <http://www.wmcarey.edu/Academics/OsteopathicMedicine/1170/OsteopathicMedicine.shtm>

Title: Podiatric Medicine YouTube Video

Description: Short (3 minute) video of podiatric physicians and students talking about why they chose podiatric medicine.

Website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvDu7oeAzRE>

Title: CSU Vet School Announcements

Description: 1) The Colorado Supplemental Veterinary Application is OPEN at:

<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cvmbs/ApplicationPVM.htm>

2) Phased Admissions Process – We hope to have Colorado and Nonsponsored offers out before Christmas this year:

<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cvmbs/pvmpro.htm>.

3) Online Admissions Portal – Applicants can obtain up-to-date information about the status of their applications. Will open **October 7, 2009**.

4) New notification process for Admissions decisions – All deny candidates will be notified ONLY via the portal and emails. All alternate candidates will be notified ONLY via the portal. ONLY offered candidates will receive hardcopy offer letters.

5) The Colleges of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, Scotland, have formed an International Sister School Program to share educational and research opportunities: Includes DVM student clinical and research exchanges. Soon to follow will be graduate student, faculty, and staff exchanges.

For more information: see DVMAdmissions@colostate.edu.

Title: Queensland – Louisiana Medical School Program

Description: Here is an article describing the new linkage between the University of Queensland (Australia) and Louisiana's Ochsner Health System:
<http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2009/07/16/queensland>.

Article also mentions Duke-Singapore and Cornell-Quatar programs.

To link directly to UQ website: <http://som->

ws2.som.uq.edu.au/som/FutureStudents/MBBS/Admissions/InternationalStudents/Pages/InternationalStudents.aspx

Title: MD / PhD Program Resources

MD-PhD FACT based website:

<http://www.aamc.org/students/considering/research/mdphd/start.htm>

Developed by seasoned MD-PhD directors and administrators, this is an ideal tool for MD-PhD students and applicants (including potential applicants).

MD-PhD Panel podcast which was taped at the NIH on 6/30/09:

<http://videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=15209>

The MD-PhD Panel, made up of seasoned directors and administrators, discusses the goals of a MD-PhD program: the careers, training, admissions, and a Q&A session.

Title: Creighton University School of Medicine Expansion

Description: Creighton will partner with St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, AZ, beginning with the first year class in fall 2010. This will allow Creighton to increase the class size from 126 to 152. About 40% of the class will complete their clinical rotations at St. Joseph's.

Websites:

<http://www.creighton.edu/publicrelations/newscenter/news/2009/june2009/june302009/phoenixcampusnr06302009/index.php>

<http://www.stjosephs-phx.org/index.htm>

Title: Columbia-Bassett New Rural Physician Program

Description: Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons has established a rural campus in upstate New York, at Bassett Healthcare, a nationally recognized health system based in Cooperstown, New York. Columbia and Bassett have joined forces to launch a new model of medical training designed to address the severe shortage of rural physicians. Significant scholarship support will be available to those students who are accepted.

Website: http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/ps/p_students/cbassett_welcome.html

Title: Penn Veterinary School VMD/PhD Program

Description: For over 40 years, the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine has provided an outstanding environment for the training of future veterinarian-scientists through its VMD/PhD Program.

Website: www.PennVetPhD.org.

Title: New Locations for Osteopathic Schools

Description: 1) Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) has received approval to open an additional campus at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. LECOM will accept 104 students at this campus, growing LECOM Erie to 354 students. Another 150 students study at LECOM Bradenton, a branch campus in Florida. LECOM at Seton Hill University will accept applications in 2009 for 2010 matriculation.

2) Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) has received approval from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) to increase its class size by 100 students, who will pursue studies at two new locations at Detroit Medical Center and Macomb University Center in Clinton Township. Detroit Medical Center is currently undergoing renovations to accommodate the expansion, and Macomb University Center will lease space to MSUCOM until a new building is constructed. These campuses will accept applications in 2009 for 2010 matriculation.

3) Western University – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, CA has received approval to open an additional campus in Lebanon, Oregon. The first class will matriculate in August 2011 and applicants will be able to apply in the AACOMAS 2010 cycle. For additional information, visit their website at: www.westernu.edu.

Title: UK Medical/Dental/Vet Schools

Description: In response to several students who have recently asked about UK medical, dental, and veterinary schools, here is some useful information. For an overall picture, try reading the Wikipedia entry before doing anything else, e.g., for UK medical schools: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_school_\(United_Kingdom\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_school_(United_Kingdom)). To start looking for specific programs, try www.educationuk.org. It is the British Council's website for non-UK students interested in studying in the UK. For medical, dental, and veterinary training in the Republic of Ireland (vs. Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK), North Americans apply through the Atlantic Bridge program <http://www.atlanticbridge.com/>.

V. Jobs

VI. Scholarships / Internships

Title: PreMed Opportunity in India

Description: Any undergraduate student who 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. 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 a link to the Jamkhed site and contains reports by previous Fellows.

Contact: Dr. David Pyle at "dpyle@JSI.com" or 202-258-4474.

Website: www.amsa.org, search for Arole

Title: Paid Summer Internships – Early Notice

Contact: Go to: <http://people.rit.edu/gtfsbi/Symp/summer.htm> for a HUGE list of internship opportunities

Note: You can select specific categories, such as PreVet, or PreMed, or Immunology, or Minority/Disadvantaged, or first-year undergrads, etc. Many still being updated for 2010.

Description: Many of the Co-ops, Internships, and the various Research Positions included in this website are Paid, Full-time, Short-term (10-20 weeks) opportunities in positions directly related to Biology & Biotechnology. In addition to the valuable experience and good pay that a Co-op or Internship will give you, very many of the Opportunities listed on this website also provide Travel Reimbursement, Housing, and Meals. So, don't let concerns about living expenses or the location of an organization posted on this website prevent you from checking out an exciting and challenging Co-op or Internship position!! If travel support, housing, and meals are provided, this information will almost always be included in the details about the Co-op or Internship that can be found by clicking on the co-op website next to the organization's name and location. Note that new opportunities are still being added.

Title: SAPP Army Health Profession Scholarship Program

Description: Medical, Dental, Veterinary, Optometry, and Clinical Psychology working on their PhD.

Website: <http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/hpsp.jsp>

Contact: Sergeant Greg Kraft gregory.kraft@usarec.army.mil

Title: New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program

Description: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) have announced the creation of the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program, designed to

alleviate the nation's nursing shortage by dramatically expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated nursing programs.

Website:

<http://www.careercornerstone.org/scccnews/issues/2008/scccnews0908.htm#scccnews5>

VII. Application Information

Committee Letter Workshops, Fall 2009

Committee Letter Workshops for PreMed (MD, DO, MD/PhD), PreDent, PreOpt, PrePod students and alums applying in 2010 for matriculation in 2011 ('the 2011 cycle'), will take place after Thanksgiving. Look for a Healthlist email in mid-November letting you know that the Committee Letter Procedures website has been updated and how to sign up for a workshop.

Submitting Secondary (Supplemental) Essays

If you are in the midst of applying this year, remember that, even if you submitted your primary application early, your application is not complete until you have submitted your secondaries to each school. If the school does not give you a priority deadline, a good goal is within 2-3 weeks of receiving the secondary. Just because the final deadline for secondaries is in December or January (or whenever it is) does not mean that waiting until then is a good strategy.

Podiatric Medicine Applications for 2010 Cycle

The 2010 E-AACPMAS application cycle will open to students on Tuesday, **September 8, 2009** (<http://www.aacpm.org/apply/apply.asp>). The application contains many enhancements this year, the most important of which is that the application service will now do transcript verification. You will only have to send one set of transcripts to the AACPMAS service rather than to each individual college. There are additional opportunities to report health care, podiatric, and other work experiences. Podiatric medical schools prefer committee letters, but will also accept individual letters.

Website: <http://www.aacpm.org/apply/apply.asp>

Entering Committee Letters on AMCAS

Committee Letters sent to AMCAS Letters Program Schools (see list of schools on AMCAS): [Future emails will cover Letter Packets and Individual Letters]

Enter the following information on AMCAS for any of the participating schools. Remember that you do not need to enter letter information before you submit AMCAS, you can enter it later.

****However, once you enter letter information and submit it you cannot change it.****

Therefore, wait until you are absolutely sure you will request a committee letter this year before entering the information. If you are unsure, consult with your premed advisor.

Letter Title: Committee Letter Packet

Author: Dr. Anne Bekoff

Address: Preprofessional Advising, 273 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0273

Phone: 303-735-3000

Email: prepro@colorado.edu

Additional Authors: You do not need to enter the names for the individual letters of recommendation that are part of your committee letter packet.

AMCAS Letters ID#. You must send or bring a copy of your Letter Request Form to the Prepro Office in University Club 111. That way, we will have the ID# necessary for sending your letters to the Letters Pilot schools.

One final note: Although there are spaces for up to 10 letters, and your committee letter packet counts as one of the 10, be aware of what your specific schools want. For most schools, submitting a committee letter packet exempts you from the specific requirements that applicants submitting individual letters must follow. You can find this information for the schools in the AMCAS Letters Program by clicking on each specific school in the Letters of Evaluation section of AMCAS or the LOE button in the Medical Schools section. Most schools want a total of 3-5 letters and that ****does**** include the letters that are part of a packet.

Entering a Letter Packet on AMCAS

Letter Packets sent to AMCAS Letters Program Schools (see list of schools on AMCAS; see other emails for Committee Letters or Individual Letters):

Enter the following information on AMCAS ONLY if you are applying to any of the schools list and DO NOT have a Committee Letter. Remember that you do not need to enter letter information before you submit AMCAS, you can enter it later. ****However, once you enter letter information and submit it, you cannot change it.****

[Note: if you have a Committee Letter, see information in previous Healthlist email (above).]

Letter Packet = a core group of letters

If you have a core group of letters that will go to all, or most, of your schools, this will make things easier for you, the Prepro office, and the medical schools. This core group will be sent electronically.

Type of Letter: Letter Packet

Letter Title: Letter Packet
Author or contact: Leslie McGrew
Address: Preprofessional Advising, 273 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder,
CO 80309-0273
Phone: 303-735-3000
Email: prepro@colorado.edu

Additional Authors: You may enter the names of the letter writers in your packet. This is optional. Be certain of which letters you will include before you enter them.

AMCAS Letters ID#. Download one copy of the AMCAS Letter Request form for your Letter Packet and send or bring it to the Preprofessional Advising Office in University Club 111. That way, we will have the ID# necessary for sending your letter packet to the AMCAS Letters schools.

Entering Individual Letters on AMCAS

Individual Letters sent to AMCAS Letters Program schools (see list of schools on AMCAS; see previous emails on Committee Letters or Letter Packets):

Most of your letters should either be part of a Committee Letter packet or a Letter Packet. If you want our office to send one or more additional letters to specific schools that are part of the AMCAS Letters Program, enter them separately. We will use the best mechanism to send these letters, whether electronically or by regular mail.

Type of Letter: Individual letter

Letter Title: Name of Recommender (e.g., Dr. Thomas Jones)
Author or contact: Leslie McGrew
Address: Preprofessional Advising, 273 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder,
CO 80309-0273
Phone: 303-735-3000
Email: prepro@colorado.edu

AMCAS Letters ID#. Download one copy of the AMCAS Letter Request form for each Individual Letter and send or bring it to the Preprofessional Advising Office in University Club 111. That way we will have the ID# necessary for sending each of your letters to the Letters Program schools.

One final note: Although there are spaces for up to 10 letters and your committee letter or letter packet just counts as one of the 10, be aware of what your specific schools want. You can find this information for the schools in the AMCAS Letters Program by clicking on each specific school in the Letters of Evaluation section of AMCAS or the LOE button in the Medical Schools section.

Most schools want a total of 3-5 letters and that ****does**** include the letters that are part of a packet.

AMCAS Work/Activities Section

Notes from a Medical School Admissions Dean:

- * Think carefully about which kind of experiences were really meaningful to you – don't try to fill out space. We are very good at recognizing BS.
- * High school activities are important only to underline continuity during college at increased levels of participation, leadership, or responsibility (e.g., you've played a musical instrument, participated in the high school orchestra, and are now in the college orchestra, etc.).
- * Don't repeat what's obvious from answers to things like experience type, title description, contact name and title, or organization name (e.g., don't repeat in the description that you worked on research with Dr. So and So – that information is above the description of your experience).
- * If the organization in which you participated is not well known, give a brief description, followed by the role you played there, specially if it involved any type of responsibility.
- * If you made Dean's List (or any type of honor like that) for more than one semester, use the description area to list the other semesters.
- * If you received any scholarship, fellowship, or other honor that is not nationally recognizable, describe it briefly. Don't waste paper on scholarships that are awarded to half the population at the school.
- * If you were just a member of an organization, let us know how many meetings/week you attended and why you joined.
- * If you list a publication, make sure it's been accepted for publication and cite it properly. If the paper is just being "prepared for submission" or "submitted," include this fact as part of the research description in the part where you listed the research activity.
- * If listing a research experience that extends through the academic year as well as summer, use the description area to let us know the time invested during each of those periods (e.g., full-time during the summer, 10 hrs/week in the fall/spring, etc.).
- * Remember that each experience you list is "up for grabs" if you are invited to interview – you might be asked anything about it and it can make you or break you. Do not put something that sounds good on paper, but in which your participation was so minimal or superficial as to make the experience worthless.

Admissions committees value brevity AND meaningful content.

Remember that you need to use complete sentences, grammatically correct English, and should have no typos in this section. Proofread it as carefully as you do your essay.

Letters of Recommendation for AADSAS Applicants

As you fill out the AADSAS application you will be asked to make several choices about how your letters of recommendation will be handled. Leslie McGrew, our administrator, will handle these requests and here's what we suggest:

1. Type of letter – You will decide between 2 options: individual or committee report.
 - A. For letters that are coming directly from a recommender (professor, employer, etc.), you should mark "individual" and put the recommender's name and contact info as directed.
 - B. For letters that have been collected in a credentials file in the Preprofessional Advising Office, BUT ARE NOT PART OF A COMMITTEE LETTER PACKET (you did not interview, etc.), you should mark "committee report," put Leslie McGrew's name and the following contact info: Preprofessional Advising Office, UCB 273, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309. The email address should be prepro@colorado.edu. You may include up to four letters in such a packet. Leslie will prepare it with the required cover sheet and send it directly from our office. It is important that you email her (prepro@colorado.edu) with directions as to which letters in your file should be sent. (e.g., Smith, Jones, etc.)
 - C. For a Committee Letter Packet (with interview, etc.), you should mark "committee report" and put the following: Penelope Bennett, CNM, PhD(c), Prehealth Advisor, UCB 273, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309. The email address should be prepro@colorado.edu, NOT Penny's usual email address. Again, Leslie will prepare the packet and send it directly from our office. It is important that you email her (prepro@colorado.edu) with directions to send your Committee Letter Packet to AADSAS. Reminder: you will need to send a processed AADSAS application to the Prepro Office before your Committee Letter will be completed and sent.
 - D. For letters that are coming directly from a recommender (professor, employer, etc.), you should mark "individual" and put the recommender's name and contact info as directed.
 - E. For letters that have been collected in a credentials file in the Preprofessional Advising Office, BUT ARE NOT PART OF A COMMITTEE LETTER PACKET (you did not interview, etc.), you should mark "committee report," put Leslie McGrew's name and the following contact info: Preprofessional Advising Office, UCB 273, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309. The email address should be prepro@colorado.edu. You may include up to four letters in such a packet. Leslie will prepare it with the required cover sheet and send it directly from our office. It is important that you email her (prepro@colorado.edu) with directions as to which letters in your file should be sent. (e.g., Smith, Jones, etc.)
 - F. For a Committee Letter Packet (with interview, etc.), you should mark "committee report" and put the following: Penelope Bennett,

CNM, PhD(c), Prehealth Advisor, UCB 273, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309. The email address should be prepro@colorado.edu, NOT Penny's usual email address. Again, Leslie will prepare the packet and send it directly from our office. It is important that you email her (prepro@colorado.edu) with directions to send your Committee Letter Packet to AADSAS. Reminder: you will need to send a processed AADSAS application to the Prepro Office before your Committee Letter will be completed and sent.

2. Method of Transmission – You will decide between electronic or paper for EACH letter or letter packet.
 - a. For letters that are coming directly from a recommender, your choice is what you and your recommender have agreed upon.
 - b. For letters from a credentials file in the Preprofessional Advising Office, we suggest that you mark "electronic" and follow the directions above. Leslie will scan and upload the letters directly to AADSAS. If you prefer that a specific letter or packet of letters be sent using regular mail, she is able to do that as well. In that situation, you will need to provide her with an AADSAS Matching Form for each letter.
 - c. For Committee Letters, we suggest that you choose "electronic" and follow the directions above.

Some of you may have already sent in your AADSAS application using a different interpretation of the instructions, and we are happy to work with you to make sure that your letters arrive in a timely manner.

Questions: Contact Leslie McGrew (prepro@colorado.edu) or Penny Bennett (penny.bennett@colorado.edu).

AMCAS/AACOMAS/TMDSAS/AADSAS Prehealth Advisor Release

Be sure to click **YES** to the Advisor Release question when you enter University of Colorado Boulder as a School Attended. You must do this **BEFORE** you submit your application. We cannot provide you with feedback if we cannot see your application information. Your individual information is kept private.

Example:

Advisor Release *

Do you authorize AMCAS to release information about your application, including MCAT scores, to school-designated advisors, provided this institution is eligible to receive such information based on the criteria set forth by AMCAS?

Yes No

VIII. Standardized Test Information

Title: MCAT Registration, January – May 2010

Description: Registration for the January – May 2010 test dates is now open. Examinees are successfully scheduling their test dates. A new feature of the system this year is that it will display available sites rather than displaying all sites whether they have seat availability or not. For example, the seats for the January dates in Beirut, Lebanon, are already sold out, so Lebanon will not appear as an option in the search function for January. This helps eliminate unnecessary searching and wasted time for the user.

Contact: If you have any questions about registration, please contact the MCAT Resource Center at (202) 828-0690 or mcats@aamc.org.

Title: MCAT Test Dates for 2010

Description: AAMC has posted the schedule for MCAT test dates for 2010.

Registration for seats for January through May will open later this fall and will be posted on the aamc.org site a week prior to opening.

Contact: <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/reserving/mcatschedule2010.htm>

Title: MCAT Verbal Reasoning Tutor

Description: If you have found that you are not making progress on the MCAT because of low VR scores, there is a tutor in Boulder who specializes in Reading for Speed and Comprehension, Sylvia Keepers. She does not charge for the first session so you can see whether her program suits you.

Website: http://www.tutortrainer.com/advanced_reading.htm

Contact: sylvia@tutortrainer.com

IX. General Information

Title: Alternative Breaks – Applications Still Being Accepted

Description: We have a wide variety student-led trips planned for spring break to locations around the country. You can travel to New York City to work on HIV/AIDS Awareness; Cincinnati, OH or Atlanta, GA for Urban Poverty; New Orleans for disaster relief; Catalina Island, CA for Environmental restoration; and many more! Trips are open to all students, both undergraduate and graduate, any major or year or interest level!

Financial Assistance: available for students who cannot afford to cover travel expenses and who are passionate about making a difference. We have both need-based aid and a need- and merit-based scholarship. The need-based aid application is within the participant application, and the merit scholarship is also attached.

Trips: <http://www.colorado.edu/vrc/altbreaks/spring.html>

Application: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/AlternativeBreaksCU>

When you submit your application to our office, UMC 358, you will find

sign-up sheets for your interview. If you still plan to submit an application, please email us at altbreak@colorado.edu. We will continue accepting applications until trips are full.

Title: Prehealth Events Calendar

Description: The Prehealth Events Calendar is up and running! You can find all events sent out on Healthlist since September 1 on the Events Calendar on the Prehealth Advising Website. In addition, Healthlist announcements other than events can be found on the link to Prehealth Announcements on our website.

Website: <http://www.colorado.edu/ArtsSciences/aacforstudents/prehealth.html>

Title: WWAMI Changes in Prerequisites for 2010

Description: Some of the WWAMI websites do not show the changes in course prerequisites between 2009 and 2010. If you are a resident of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, or Idaho, and are planning to apply to U Washington School of Medicine through the WWAMI program (<http://uwmedicine.washington.edu/Education/WWAMI/>).

****For 2010****

The premedical course requirements must be completed before matriculation but preferably before the time of application. Undergraduate or post/baccalaureate courses must be completed at a college or university accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting body. Courses must include a minimum of:

5 semesters or 7 quarters of Social Sciences or Humanities.

6 semesters or 9 quarters of Chemistry and Biology. The subject matter in these courses must include general chemistry, general biology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, and cell biology/cell physiology.

2 semesters or 3 quarters of Physics; or 1 semester or 2 quarters of Physics plus 1 semester or 2 quarters of calculus or linear algebra.

The following courses are recommended, but not required.

Ethics

Anatomy or Comparative Anatomy

Human or Mammalian Physiology

Embryology

Under exceptional circumstances, some course requirements may be waived for individuals who present unusual achievements and academic promise. All candidates should demonstrate substantial academic ability in their major field as well as in the required science courses. Candidates should be proficient in the use of the English language, basic mathematics, personal computing, and information technologies.

Applicant Professionalism

Please remember that as you apply to professional schools, every communication you have with them can be considered as information about what kind of professional you will be. A few suggestions:

- 1) Email address - consider whether your email address is suitable. Also keep in mind that one that includes your last name is least likely to get misfiled.
- 2) Voicemail message - consider how it might sound to others.
- 3) Letters, emails - remember that these will all be placed in your file. "Hey" is not an appropriate way to begin. Use titles, not first names - when in doubt use "Dean" or "Dr." Although email can be casual among friends, these are not casual communications. Use proper punctuation, complete sentences, and capitalize appropriately. Be sure to use the right medical school name!
Proofread - don't just spell-check. Check your grammar.
- 4) Courtesy - be respectful to all who spend their time to help you, from front office staff to interviewers to deans of admissions. Answer inquiries and invitations promptly. Do not be a no-show. When you meet someone, introduce yourself with first and last name. Send thank you notes, handwritten on a note card, to interviewers. They can be brief, but SAY something in them.
- 5) Facebook/MySpace/Studentdoctor.net - Do not have anything in a public place that you would not want a medical school admission committee to see. Google yourself and see what you find.

New Medical Radio Talk Show

"Radio Rounds" is a new medical talk show that is geared toward pre-medical and medical students. It is produced entirely by medical students at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and is the only such radio show in the country. Radio Rounds airs on Sunday afternoons from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. EST and can be heard across the world via live internet streaming and free iTunes podcasts.

For more information, see: www.radiorounds.blogspot.com; On Facebook: search "Radio Rounds"; On iTunes: FREE podcast available – just search "Radio Rounds" or go to:

<http://deimos.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/wright.edu.2049885723.02049885733>

Contact: radiorounds@gmail.com

AVOID DELETION from Healthlist, Keep Your Settings Current

Unsubscribe / Change Selections / Change Email Address/Bounced Emails

You are currently subscribed to the prehealth advising email list, Healthlist. If your settings are correct, you can stop here.

If you need to make changes, log on to Healthlist by going to the Prehealth Advising website (<http://www.colorado.edu/aac/prehealth.html>) and clicking on 'Email List' on menu at the left. Sign in as an "Existing User."

- 1) Unsubscribe by clicking on 'Unsubscribe' in the upper right-hand corner.
- 2) Change your fields of interest by changing which boxes are checked and clicking on 'Update' at the bottom center.
- 3) Change your email address by simply typing in your new address, then clicking 'Update' at bottom center. Remember that many non-CU email providers may filter mass mailings from Healthlist.

NOTE: ***Keep your email address (including forwarding address) up to date. You will be unsubscribed if emails sent to you bounce back. If you stop receiving Healthlist email, you may need to re-subscribe as a 'New User' and provide a working email address.***

- 4) Logout

Changes in Prerequisites for CU School of Dental Medicine

The Preprofessional Advising Office has been made aware of the following changes in prerequisites for the CU School of Dental Medicine:

CURRENT Prerequisites -

General Chemistry/lab – one academic year

Organic Chemistry/lab – one academic year

General Biology/lab – one academic year (Note that MCDB majors still need to take Gen Bio II)

General Physics/lab – one academic year

English Composition – one semester

NEW Prerequisites:

Microbiology – one semester without lab

Biochemistry – one semester without lab

CHANGES in Prerequisites:

Humanities is no longer a prerequisite.

Further information can be found at the CU School of Dentistry website:

<http://uchsc.edu/sod>.

Financial Information for Medical School Applicants

Created by the AAMC in collaboration with the medical school financial aid community and the Organization of Student Representatives, FIRST for Medical Education is designed to help members of the academic medicine community navigate the complexities of student debt.

FIRST offers a full range of Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools for applicants, medical school students, residents, advisors, and financial aid officers. Our goal is to help medical school borrowers expand their financial literacy, make smart decisions about student loans, and manage their student debt wisely.

Website: <http://www.aamc.org/first>

Explore Health Careers

If you have not yet narrowed your choice of health careers, or are interested in knowing more about any health career, here is a useful website:

<http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/>

This site also has links to some websites for prehealth enrichment programs and many other useful websites.

Financial Aid Website

Several prehealth students have recently asked about sources for financial aid or scholarships during college. You would certainly want to consult with the Financial Aid Office on this campus: <http://www.Colorado.EDU/finaid/>. However, in addition, here is a reputable website for searching for sources of financial aid: <http://www.finaid.org>. This site includes individualized searches for scholarships via FastWeb. It also discusses what to look for to protect yourself from scams. (Note: if you have to pay money to get money, it is probably a scam.)

Updated 11/20/09