GSA-Diversity Affairs Representatives,

Please see the important announcements and opportunities below for Friday, September 27, 2013:

NEW! INSIDE THE AAMC
- Aspiring Docs Diaries Seeks Students with Inspiring Stories
- Aspiring Docs and FIRST Release FREE e-Guide for Pre-Med Students
- SAVE THE DATE: Summer Medical and Dental Education Program Application Opens November 1
- Unconscious Bias Learning Lab for the Health Professions
- 25th Anniversary of the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)
- Registration Open - Learn ● Serve ● Lead: The AAMC 2013 Annual Meeting
- Medloans® Organizer and Calculator Now Customized For Dental Students
- Save the Date! Minority Student Medical Career Awareness Workshops and Recruitment Fair - Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
- AAMC sponsors Joining Forces Wellness Week 2013
- AAMC’s Diversity Policy and Programs Annual Recruitment Fair
- Diversity Data Snapshots (DDS)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS
- National Board of Medical Examiners at 2013 AAMC Annual Meeting
- Webinar: Addressing the Unique Needs of Undocumented Students: How Recent Policy Changes Affect College Access

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS
- Health Disparities Conference - Call for Abstracts - October 18, 2013
- NEW Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Insurance Marketplaces Presentation and Networking Reception on the Affordable Care Act Enrollment Options for Medical Practices and for Families and Individuals
- INVITATION - Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Latino Health Forum
- Tour4Diversity Announces Fall 2013 Tour Schedule
- Save the Date! 2014 NAAHP National Meeting
- The Association for Academic Surgery Opens 2013 Fall Courses Registration – Travel Grants Available

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
- The American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research Announce Student Research Program
- Research Opportunity at NIH for Science Students: Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO)
- American Heart Association Go Red For Women Health Care Scholarship
- American Society of Hematology Research Experience for Medical Students: Minority Medical Student Award Program (MMSAP)
- HHMI Medical Research Fellows Program Application Cycle Opens
- Fellowship Opportunity: The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy
- Baylor College of Medicine Announces 11th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards

**ARTICLES**

- UND Program Draws Students with Passion for Health
- Medical School Students Reflect on Undergraduate Experience
- 5 Questions Medical School Applicants Are Afraid to Ask
- Grant Targets Medically Underserved Oklahomans
- Affordable Care Act Enrollment For Latinos Requires Trust
- Medical School Interview Can Make or Break Future Doctors
- What Do We Call “Medical Students”?*
- Research Suggests Debt Level Can Be Barrier for Qualified Minority and Low-Income Students
- Creighton’s Kosoko-Lasaki Nominated as White House Champion of Change

**INSIDE THE AAMC**

*Aspiring Docs Diaries Seeks Students with Inspiring Stories*
Last year, Aspiring Docs launched a popular new blog called *Aspiring Docs Diaries* ([www.aspiringdocsdiaries.org](http://www.aspiringdocsdiaries.org)), which was written by a first year medical student. Our endeavor was to give medical school aspirants an inside look at what it’s like to be a medical student. This year, we’re expanding the *Diaries* to include several bloggers across all four years of medical school. While we have a few students who have expressed interest, we’d like to feature more voices from our member medical schools to represent a wider perspective of experiences, pathways, and inspiration. If you know students who have inspiring stories and would be interested in participating, please tell them about this opportunity. We’re hoping to find students who are able to blog once or twice a month but we are flexible and can work with their schedules. Please have interested students contact us at aspiringdocs@aamc.org.

**Aspiring Docs and FIRST Release FREE e-Guide for Pre-Med Students**

A new online guide is available for pre-med students who are interested in pursuing careers in medicine. *Quick Answers to Common Questions About Getting Into Medical School* is packed with answers to nearly 40 questions about preparing for medical school, applying, testing, financing, and what it’s like to be in medical school. Also contained within the six chapters are links to additional resources for students who are pursuing their medical education. The e-Guide is a compilation of fact sheets from AAMC’s FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) for Medical Education and Aspiring Docs initiatives.

**SAVE THE DATE: Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) Application Opens November 1.** Details are available [here](#).

**Unconscious Bias Learning Lab for the Health Professions**

Are you curious about the *Unconscious Bias Learning Lab for the Health Professions*, but are unsure about who should come, what the program will be like, and what experience you need to participate? [Click here to listen to a 30 minute Q&A call](#).

Howard Ross of Cook Ross, Inc. and workshop leader addresses exactly what you can expect during the lab and what takeaways you will receive. Cook Ross is one of the nation’s leading diversity training consultants and the AAMC has partnered with them to offer this unique training program.

**25th Anniversary of the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)**

In 2014, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Summer Medical and Dental Education National Program Office (NPO) will celebrate a special milestone: the 25th Anniversary of the SMDEP and its previous iterations- MMEP and SMEP.

Several of our alumni, particularly those that participated in the early iterations of the program (MMEP and SMEP) have served on various leadership positions in your organizations and participated at your conferences and events.

We need your assistance to connect and engage them to share their stories. We are looking for individuals who:

- have compelling personal stories,
- made significant contributions to their profession and their communities or
- can speak to impact of the program on their career and lives.

Please use the [Share your story](#) feature on the SMDEP website to help us identify your leadership and members who participated in the program or send their contact information to Rennee Hubb at rhubb@aamc.org

Information about 25th Anniversary campaign activities are forthcoming.

**Registration Open - Learn ● Serve ● Lead: The AAMC 2013 Annual Meeting**
Register now for Learn ● Serve ● Lead: The AAMC 2013 Annual Meeting—the signature learning and networking event for academic medicine. Join the AAMC Nov. 1–6 in Philadelphia to engage with current and future leaders—deans, CEOs, faculty, administrators, residents, students, and other medical school and teaching hospital stakeholders—in critical conversations about the changing landscape of medical education, research, and patient care. Keynote speakers Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski will engage in dynamic, insightful conversations about the critical political issues of the day. Plenary speakers, Ian Morrison, Daphne Koller, and Adam Grant will address their efforts to implement change in health care, education, and organizational culture. Additionally, this year, through the “Making the Most of the Annual Meeting” program, institutions that sign up as a team will receive a discount off their registration and a toolkit of guidelines and resources to help them take a strategic approach to the annual meeting. Please note that this year the meeting officially will kick off with the AAMC Leadership Plenary session on Saturday instead of Sunday (followed by the opening reception in the exhibit hall). For full program details, please visit the Web site.

Medloans® Organizer and Calculator Now Customized For Dental Students
The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is pleased to announce, that in partnership with ADEA (American Dental Education Association), we’ve created the Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator (DLOC). DLOC is an education debt management tool designed to promote responsible borrowing and loan repayment. The new tool helps dental students and graduates organize and track their student loans, view loan repayment options, and create individual repayment scenarios based on their specific career plans. For more information on DLOC, click here.

Save the Date! Minority Student Medical Career Awareness Workshops and Recruitment Fair - Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
Recruiter registration for the event will coincide with the AAMC Annual Meeting registration. Registration will open in July. Please direct questions to Angela R. Moses, Program Specialist, 202 862-6203, Amanda Owens, Program Specialist, 202 828-0498 or email: careerfair@aamc.org

AAMC sponsors Joining Forces Wellness Week 2013
As part of the Joining Forces initiative that is sponsored by the White House, the AAMC again is sponsoring Joining Forces Wellness Week (JFWW). The aim of JFWW is to continue raising awareness in the academic medicine community about the nuanced health and wellness needs of veterans, service members and their families. This contributes to our mission to improve the health of all.

The cornerstone event is the JFWW webinar series. This series will be held November 11-15, 2013 from 12-1 p.m. EST each day with topics appropriate for medical students, residents, and physicians. Registration will open around October 1, and we will be sending an invitation to the designated contact for each school with additional details about the sessions.

AAMC’s Diversity Policy and Programs Annual Recruitment Fair
The AAMC’s Diversity Policy and Programs will host its annual recruitment fair Saturday, November 2, 2013 at The Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. This event is open to students interested in careers in medicine or biomedical research. The fair aspires to reach out to minority college and high school students, along with parents, advisors, guidance counselors, school administrators, and all individuals interested in pursuing a career in medicine. Participants will obtain information on the AAMC’s Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP), and other summer enrichment programs, summer undergraduate research programs, and additional resources that can help students prepare for careers in the health professions. Participants will meet diversity affairs, admissions, Ph.D. and M.D.-Ph.D. program directors and/or administrators from U.S. medical schools along with other health professions schools. Click here to access registration information.
Diversity Data Snapshots (DDS)
The DDS is a bimonthly electronic resource containing relevant news sources, data points and research findings related to diversity in higher education, academic medicine and health equity to help our medical schools build capacity for diversity and institutional excellence.

This month’s presentation provides an overview of the role community colleges play in the educational pathways of medical school aspirants and highlights answers to the following:

- How prevalent is community college enrollment among medical school applicants?
- Is there change over time in the percentage of applicants who ever enrolled in a community college?
- Are there socio-demographic differences among applicants who ever enrolled in a community college?

Click here to access September 2013 data slides.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS

National Board of Medical Examiners at 2013 AAMC Annual Meeting

For additional information, contact Brenda Latham-Sadler, GSA-Committee on Diversity Affairs Representative on the NBME Advisory Committee for Medical School Programs, at blsadler@wakehealth.edu

Webinar: Addressing the Unique Needs of Undocumented Students: How Recent Policy Changes Affect College Access Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 3:00-4:30pm EST

Participants will:
- Learn how state and federal education and immigration policies impact college access for undocumented students in their state and on their campus
- Review the DACA application and learn how best to assist students with its completion
- Discover ways to help undocumented students during the college application and admission process
- Address the unique needs of undocumented college-goers
- Be able to train other professionals on their campus and/or in their community to support undocumented immigrant students
- Begin to develop a network of undocumented student allies and support on their campus and in their community

Who should attend?
This webinar will be presented live on both dates listed above. Institutions can participate on one date or both at no additional fee! Registration details are available here.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS**

**Health Disparities Conference - Call for Abstract - October 18, 2013**
The UPMC Physician Services Division Inclusion Council second annual conference will spotlight trends, scholarly work, and best practices in addressing health disparities and building a diverse health care workforce. We are interested in abstracts for presentations or posters that highlight current research on the identification of disparities, the influence of sociobehavioral and socioeconomic inequalities on health status, relevant health care policy issues, and innovative topics and research related to these areas. This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Additional information is available here.

**NEW Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities**
The W. Montague Cobb-NMA Health Institute has launched the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. The Editor-in-Chief is Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Connecticut, and the publisher is Springer. The journal reports on the scholarly progress of work to understand, address, and ultimately eliminate health disparities based on race and ethnicity. Efforts to explore underlying causes of health disparities and to describe interventions that have been undertaken to address racial and ethnic health disparities are featured. Promising studies that are ongoing or studies that have longer term data are welcome, as are studies that serve as lessons for best practices in eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. The journal is accepting original articles, solicited evolutionary reviews presenting the state-of-the-art thinking on problems centered on health disparities, and unsolicited review articles of timely interest. The first issue will be published in early 2014, and the journal is now accepting submissions. For more information, click here.

**US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Insurance Marketplaces Presentation and Networking Reception on the Affordable Care Act Enrollment Options for Medical Practices and for Families and Individuals**
The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) and its Regional Steering Committees, we are very pleased to invite you to our "Covered Hispanics Campaign" and join The White House, The US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Insurance Marketplaces for a Presentation on the Affordable Care Act Enrollment options for Medical Practices and for Families and Individuals, followed by a Networking Reception. Please invite your colleagues to learn about health reform opportunities - so we have more of our community covered. We hope you will attend and bring your colleagues!

Speakers: Federal and State Speakers - ACA and Health Marketplace Representatives
Partners List: Anthem Blue Cross, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, Verizon Foundation, Aetna Foundation, Noticias MundoFox TV

Locations/Dates:

- JW Marriott LA LIVE, Figueroa and Olympic, Los Angeles, CA - Saturday, Sept. 21st
- New York Academy of Medicine, 5th Ave and 103rd Street, NYC, NY - Thursday, Sept. 26th
- Westin Hotel Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX - Saturday, Sept. 28th
- US Capitol Visitors Center, Washington, DC - Thursday, Oct. 3rd
- Emory Conference Hotel, Clinton Dr., Atlanta, GA - Friday, Oct. 11th
- Embassy Suites Chicago, Downtown/Lakefront, 511 N. Columbus Dr, Chicago, IL - Saturday, Oct. 12th
- Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

RSVP: www.nhmamd.org

Prior to all Regional Events, from 4-5 pm we will have a Student Mentoring; from 5-6 pm we will have Resident Mentoring

INVITATION - Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Latino Health Forum
On September 30, 2013, the Metropolitan Council of Governments is bringing regional decision makers and stakeholders together to discuss the factors that affect access to healthcare for Latinos across the region.

Learn the latest about:
- Implementation of the Affordable Care Act
- Best models and practices for serving the Latino community by agencies within the region
- Language and cultural barriers to accessing care

Register for the forum here by September 20, 2013.

Tour4Diversity Announces Fall 2013 Tour Schedule
Medical schools can register to host a table throughout the day at each site of the tour. Learn more here.
Save the Date! 2014 NAAHP National Meeting - June 25-29, 2014
The 2014 NAAHP Program Planning Committee invites NAAHP members, Advisory Council members, and others to submit concurrent session and poster proposals for the 21st National Meeting in San Francisco, CA, June 25-29, 2014. Detailed information about the conference and online submission form are available here.

The Association for Academic Surgery Opens 2013 Fall Courses Registration
The Fall Courses will be happening on October 4-5, 2013 in Washington, DC with the following courses on each day:

- Friday, October 4 - Fundamentals of Surgical Research Course
- Saturday, October 5 - Career Development Course (Just before the ACS meeting)

Six travel grants are available and include travel, hotel accommodations, and registration (not to exceed $1500) for the Fundamentals of Surgical Research Course and Career Development Course. They will be presented to residents, fellows or faculty members who are female and/or are from an under-represented minority. For more information regarding the travel grants. Learn more here. Detailed information can be accessed here.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research Announce Student Research Program
The SPR and APS offer a medical student research training program to encourage gifted medical students to consider careers in research related to pediatrics. This program is specifically designed for students seeking a research opportunity at an institution OTHER THAN THEIR OWN MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Students selected to the program are able to choose or are assigned to leading research laboratories/groups. Currently, our Directory of Laboratories/Research Groups lists research opportunities at more than 300 facilities. Each research experience allows the student to spend two to three months at 40 hours per week in a research environment. The program provides students with a stipend of $61.20/day (as of 2012) for a maximum stipend of $5,508. Learn more here.

Research Opportunity at NIH for Science Students: Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO)
The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), one of the largest Institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is looking for science students with a passion to improve global health in the 21st century for its Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO) program, held February 3–6, 2014, in Bethesda, Maryland.
We are looking for dedicated science students interested in joining the NIAID research community. Candidates who are college-level seniors, medical school students, or doctoral candidates nearing their dissertation defense and from a population underrepresented in the biomedical sciences are eligible. Learn more here.

American Heart Association Go Red For Women Health Care Scholarship
American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women and Macy’s, its national sponsor, are offering scholarships for a third year to multicultural women interested in health care careers. The Go Red Multicultural Scholarship Fund will help assist diverse racial and ethnic women who are pursuing an education in the nursing, medical and allied health fields. A total of 16 females will receive a $2,500 scholarship to support them in their studies. Learn more here.

American Society of Hematology Research Experience for Medical Students: Minority Medical Student Award Program (MMSAP)
The MMSAP engages medical students in the field of hematology by providing participants with a stipend to complete an eight to 12-week research experience in the lab of an ASH member. Participants also receive travel support to attend the ASH annual meeting and the guidance of two mentors. Mentoring begins during the application phase and continues throughout medical school and residency. This program is open to minority medical students from the United States or Canada who are enrolled in a DO, MD, or MD/PhD program. There is no fee to apply. Visit the ASH website at the address below for specific eligibility requirements, also see attached flyer.

**HHMI Medical Research Fellows Program Application Cycle Opens**
The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Competition System is open for applications to the HHMI Medical Research Fellows Program. The program enables medical students at U.S. schools to participate in a yearlong, mentored, basic, translational, or applied biomedical research training experience at an academic or nonprofit institution other than the NIH, at HHMI’s Janelia Farm Research Campus near Washington, D.C., or at K-RITH in Durban, South Africa. For more information, click here.

**Fellowship Opportunity: The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy**
(Formerly The Commonwealth Fund / Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy) is a one-year, degree-granting, full-time program starting July 2014, designed to prepare physicians for leadership roles in transforming health care delivery systems and promoting health policies and practices that improve access to high performance health care for vulnerable populations including racial and ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged groups. To download the fellowship brochure or for more information about the fellowship, click here.

**Baylor College of Medicine Announces 11th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards**
Baylor College of Medicine announces the Eleventh Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards.

This annual contest honors the legendary, pre-eminent cardiovascular surgeon, pioneering medical scientist, gifted medical educator, prolific author and scholar, and passionate advocate of optimal healthcare throughout the world. Dr. Michael E. DeBakey has long advocated a role for the humanities in medical education and in the development of a full, enriching intellectual life.

Guidelines:

1. Only original poetry on a medical subject and by undergraduates currently enrolled in accredited United States medical schools is eligible.

2. By a copy of the student photograph I.D. card, entrants must document enrollment in an accredited

3. American medical school in pursuit of the M.D. degree.

4. Each medical student may submit only one poem, not to exceed 2 pages.

5. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2013.

6. Poems must be on a medical subject.

7. Poems must be:
   a. Original, not published or under consideration for publication, and not having previously received a poetry award.
   b. Limited to 2 pages, double-spaced.
c. In English; no translations from other languages.

d. Printed on 8.5 x 11 inch bond paper.

e. Accompanied by a cover page, with the following information:
   i. Poet’s name
   ii. Current mailing and e-mailing addresses, telephone, and fax numbers if available.
   iii. Copy of photographed student I.D. card documenting medical school enrollment.

f. Submitted in five hard (print) copies, as well as one compact disk (CD) in Microsoft Word (not DVD or floppy diskette).

Entries will not be acknowledged.

A distinguished panel of qualified judges will assess the poems.

Winners will be announced in July, 2014.
- The first prize recipient will receive a cash prize of $1,000.00
- The second prize recipient will receive a cash prize of $500.00
- The third prize recipient will receive a cash prize of $250.00

The first-prize poem will become the property of the Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards program and will be submitted to a major medical periodical for consideration for publication. If it is accepted for publication, the publisher will own copyright.

Submissions should be sent to:
Dr. David H. Berger
Chairman, Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards
Professor and Vice-Chairman, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Attention: Holly Shilstone
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, 404D, Mail Stop 390, Houston, Texas 77030

ARTICLES

UND Program Draws Students with Passion for Health
Muna Mohamed has seen the conditions of people in her native Somalia and other African countries: Children living without adequate shelter. People who lack wheelchairs, who must crawl, causing damage to their skin. Individuals with mental illness who are not receiving proper care. And she intends to make a difference in their lives.

Mohamed, 24, who has lived in the U.S. for 13 years, began study in the University of North Dakota’s new undergraduate degree program in public health education this fall. She is among about a dozen students who plan to pursue a bachelor of science degree which is aimed at students who want to make an impact in the health arena on a broader scale, according to Dr. Tanis Hastmann, who came to UND a year ago as program director. Access the full story here.
Medical School Students Reflect on Undergraduate Experience
Every week *The Chronicle* collects pre-medical students’ most pressing questions and poses them to professionals in the field of medicine. This week, The Chronicle’s Juanita Hazel emailed Dr. Brenda Armstrong, associate dean of medical education and director of admissions for the School of Medicine, to find out what matters from an administrative perspective. Access the full article [here](#).

5 Questions Medical School Applicants Are Afraid to Ask
Medical school applicants want to make the best possible impression on admissions officers, but as a result they may be hesitant to ask certain questions and get the facts they need to make a reasoned decision about the medical school they select.

Students should ask the following challenging questions, as well as understand when and under what circumstances it may be less risky for students to ask them. Understand the factors behind medical school admissions decisions. Access the full article [here](#).

Grant Targets Medically Underserved Oklahomans
The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center has received a $20.3 million federal grant to target medically underserved Oklahomans, especially in rural areas of the state.

More News
SUV kills Mass. bicyclist on charity ride in Ohio
Public health effects of Md. gas drilling studied
Waterville Housing Authority fights bedbugs
EXCHANGE: Cancer survivor leads by example
Prescription abuse campaign launched in W.Va.

Read more Health & Science News
Gov. Mary Fallin said the grant, announced Monday, will support potentially life-saving research at Oklahoma’s medical centers. “It will also help to provide additional resources for rural areas that have typically been underserved,” the governor said. The five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health supports an Institutional Development Award, a program that builds research capacities in states with historically low levels of NIH funding by supporting basic, clinical and translational research, faculty development and program infrastructure. Access the full article [here](#).

Affordable Care Act Enrollment For Latinos Requires Trust
The woman Eduardo Tinoco approaches on a recent Sunday morning at a local park visibly stiffens as if she is about to be solicited for money or face an undesirable encounter.

Dressed in a nice shirt and tie, Tinoco tells the young mother in Spanish that something good is happening, and it has to do with health care. He tells her she may qualify for an affordable health plan through the state beginning on Jan. 1. He tells her it’s the law to enroll. Access the full article [here](#).

Medical School Interview Can Make or Break Future Doctors
Last fall, 19,517 people entered medical school in the United States to pursue a coveted M.D. But more than 45,000 applied. Excellent science and math grades, even top scores on the MCAT, are not enough to guarantee a spot in medical school. What else does an applicant need? An excellent personal interview. According to a recent survey by the Association of American Medical Colleges, which evaluated a dozen variables surrounding admission, the interview was ranked most important. Typically, medical schools only grant interviews to applicants who have met their academic standards - so the interview is what sets applicants apart. Admissions faculty also know that incoming students are future colleagues, which is why first impressions are so important. Access the full article [here](#).

What Do We Call “Medical Students”?
Last week, I had the first opportunity to put my new white coat to use when I shadowed a family physician. I absolutely loved seeing patients, and it was a nice break from the nonstop book studying that I seem to be doing lately. I was pleasantly surprised at how accepting and receptive the patients were. Almost all agreed to allow me, a clueless first year med student, to obtain part of their history and do simple physical exam procedures. I’m
not sure if I should cheer or weep to report that the most interesting part of my week was irrigating an ear canal in an acute otitis media (ear infection) by myself.

As grateful as I am to my preceptor for allowing me to be a part of his office, I was intrigued by was the way he wanted me to introduce myself. He thought that the best way to begin the interview was to introduce myself as “Alexandra, the student-doctor shadowing him that day”. While this may seem like a subtle change from “medical student,” this slight shift in language felt like a huge jump for me. The manner in which I was used to (both from working at Albany Med and from the introductory course taught here) was for the student to state their name, year, and the fact they were a medical student (For example, mine would be “Alexandra, the first-year medical student”). So why did he specifically recommend using “student-doctor”? Access the full article here.

Research Suggests Debt Level Can Be Barrier for Qualified Minority and Low-Income Students
Andrew Glickman is looking at some scary numbers when he leaves medical school. Glickman, a medical student at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, estimates he will leave medical school with about $250,000 in debt. Some of it comes from his undergraduate and master's degree work in Florida, while the lion's share will come from tuition and living expenses from ACOM.

Nevertheless, the Tampa native remains optimistic about the future.

"I don't plan to be rich, but if I'm successful in what I do the money will come," he said. "The ultimate goal is to help people. If you help people, you'll get paid."

Numbers from medical groups paint a less cheerful picture of the high debt many med school students take on to complete their education. Research suggests the debt level can be a barrier for qualified minority and low-income students and can also impact the areas of medicine young doctors choose to pursue, leading to shortages in some less remunerative fields of practice. Access the full article here.

Creighton's Kosoko-Lasaki Nominated as White House Champion of Change
Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius has recognized the nomination of Creighton University's Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, M.D., MSPH, MBA, for her dedication to improving the health of the community. The recognition comes following Kosoko-Lasaki's nomination as a White House Champion of Change for Public Health and Prevention.

The White House developed the Champions of Change program to highlight ordinary Americans who "are doing extraordinary things in their communities to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world." As co-executive director for Creighton University's Center for Promoting Health and Health Equities (CPHHE), Kosoko-Lasaki is actively involved in collaborating with the community to eliminate health disparities locally and internationally. Access the full article here.