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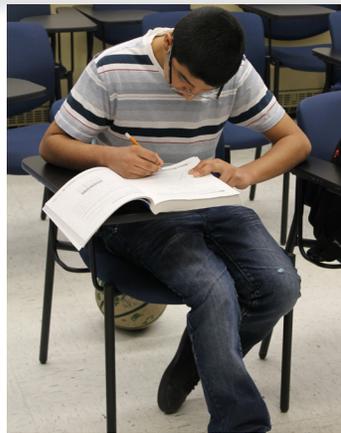
HEALTH CENTER

Health Professions

Aetna HPPI Pipeline

Partnership Initiative

November 2013



Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs

Read about the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative and pipeline programs at:

www.hcop.uchc.edu



Welcome from...

Marja Hurley, M.D.

Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery
Associate Dean & Director
Health Career Opportunity Programs
University of Connecticut Health Center

This year has been another eventful and successful year for the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP). The department is an integral part of the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Graduate educational community at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UConn Health Center). The Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and the Biomedical Graduate Program are actively committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of diverse graduate, medical, and dental students who are capable of providing culturally competent health care.

The department continues to support currently enrolled medical, dental and graduate students of diverse backgrounds and has expanded its programs for middle, high school and college students to realize their dreams of becoming health professionals. The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (Aetna HPPI) programs and activities are designed, coordinated and implemented through this department. They have proven to be top-notch because the participants in the programs have successfully completed their undergraduate degrees and have actualized their goals of entering medical, dental and graduate school. It is for this reason that the programs and activities sponsored through HCOP are recognized as a national model. To date,

we have accomplished our goals and continue to develop new programs and fine-tune existing ones.

We had 191 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2013 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the academic year 2013-2014, we anticipate approximately 820 students participating in our after-school, partner high school, Aetna HPPI Saturday Academy and college programs. This year, all graduating seniors participating in the high school Aetna HPPI Saturday Academy were accepted into college. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work. We also offer special congratulations to the HCOP scholars in 2013's graduating classes of the School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine. In the School of Medicine, 26% of the graduating class are HCOP scholars, while 14% of the graduating class in the School of Dental Medicine are HCOP scholars.

I thank our entire faculty, staff and students at the Health Center and partner institutions for their dedication and support. I thank all of our funders for their continued financial support of our programs. A special recognition goes to the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education who has provided Aetna HPPI with ConnCAP funds to support some of our existing programmatic initiatives.



A note from...

Granville Wrensford, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean & Associate Director
Health Career Opportunity Programs
University of Connecticut Health Center

This year has been very exciting with the vast array of programs and activities that HCOP sponsors. Interest among students, parents and educators alike has been increasing. We have visited many middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities throughout the state of Connecticut. We have also visited a few colleges in Rhode Island, Alabama, and Georgia. Our Facebook page continues to grow as more alumni join our social network.

This past year, we added the following two new schools to the Great Explorations program: Two Rivers Middle School and Metropolitan Learning Center for International and Global Studies. We held discussions with some additional middle schools that are interested in our Great Explorations middle school program, and we hope to add a few more during the next academic year.

We also held discussions with several organizations that are interested in collaborating with the department. We continue to provide access and exposure to health careers and health professionals by hosting visits to the UConn Health Center facilities. A group of forty students from the New Britain High School Academy of Health Professions spent

the day here at the Health Center interacting with various health professionals. Last December, the department sponsored a conference for participants of the UConn Storrs Upward Bound program. HCOP also facilitated the visits of several college students from the UConn West Hartford campus. The students toured research labs here at the Health Center. We interacted with numerous students during recruitment and informational sessions. It pleases me to see such a large number of students excited about the health sciences and careers in the health professions. I am grateful to the many individuals who have contributed to the success of the programs.

As we prepare for another year, I must acknowledge the parents, guardians and students of the programs for their firm commitment. A special thank you to the HCOP staff, faculty and other professionals here at the Health Center and the larger community who have volunteered their time to mentor and interact with the participants in our programs. I would also like to acknowledge the strong support of Dr. Menard and his staff at the Greater Hartford campus and Dr. Kevin McLaughlin and Sonya Renfro at the Storrs campus.

Congratulations to...

Shawnet Jones, M.D.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor

Dr. Shawnet Jones graduated from the University of Connecticut Health Center, School of Medicine in May 2013. She is the first college graduate and physician in her family.

In 2006, Dr. Jones received a full scholarship to attend the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Neurobiology in May 2009. She was accepted into UConn through the combined Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science and Medical Degree program (CPiM), which allows for acceptance to the UConn Health Center School of Medicine once the student has completed the four-year undergraduate degree at UConn. The CPiM program gives gifted and talented high school students who are certain that they want to become physicians, the opportunity to combine liberal arts and professional education.

Dr. Jones is also an alumna of the prestigious UConn Honors Program and a John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholar. She was a member of the first class of Rowe Scholars and stated, "I am very grateful to the Rowe Scholar Program and to Drs. John and Valerie Rowe. The program provided excellent programming - connecting us to health professionals who served as positive role models and mentors. Financially, it allowed me to focus on studies instead of worrying about paying for my education and also allowed me to study abroad in the Dominican Republic."

Other scholarships awarded to Dr. Jones include the Day of Pride Scholarship and the Mass Mutual Scholarship. She was also inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society and honored as a New England Scholar for the 2008-2009 academic year. In addition, she was a Comcast Leader and Achiever Scholar and a Capitol School Scholar.

Dr. Jones participated in several of the HCOP pipeline programs as a college student. While in medical school, she served as a mentor to HCOP students and as a tutor for the MDPP Track 1 MCAT program. She also



volunteered at different events, including the Willimantic Clinic, South Marshal Street Clinic, Smiling Seniors, and the Hispanic Senior Center. Serving the underserved will continue to be a focus of her career, including a commitment to increase access to health services.

Dr. Jones is currently completing her Family Medicine Residency at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Growing up she wanted to

be a pediatrician to combine her love of science and children. During the Student Continuity Practice (SCP) at the UConn Health Center School of Medicine, her preceptor, Dr. Mark Belsky, was very influential in her decision to work with adults as well as children.

Dr. Jones recognizes,..."Dr. Marja M. Hurley, Dr. Mark Belsky, Petra Clark-Dufner, Dr. Kenia Mansilla, and Dr. David Henderson for their support and encouragement." She stated the following regarding Dr. Hurley's influence: "she is an amazing role model; not only being the first African American woman at UCHC, but also coming from Jamaica. [And] all the hard work she has done with the pipeline programs and paving the way for minority students to become prominent figures in health care."

She thanks God for all the blessings he has bestowed on her, her parents (Gosseth and Hylton Jones) for their unconditional love, unwavering support and better judgment. She also has special thanks for her relatives and close friends who have stuck it out with her; all of her teachers and preceptors who have guided her and challenged her along the way.

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to students interested in the health professions: "If you have a goal, passion, or dream that you aspire to attain, work towards it without feeling limited by finances, family dynamics, neighborhood you come from or the school you are enrolled in. If it's your dream to become a doctor or any other health professional there are tons of resources to help you. Have fun along the way."

Congratulations to...

Tashiba Nelson, DMD

Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor



At age 19, Tashiba Nelson traveled from Jamaica to the United States to attend Albany State University in Georgia, where she received a full scholarship and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She then enrolled at the University of Connecticut Health Center, School of Dental Medicine and graduated in May 2013.

She is the first college graduate and dentist in her family.

Dr. Nelson's first exposure to the dental field was at the age of seven. The trip to the dentist's office took place after her father, who did not believe in western medicine, but who focused on nutrition and herbal medicine, tried to extract one of her front teeth. During the process, she fainted and her mother decided to take her to the dentist. The experience opened her eyes and piqued her curiosity about the dental field.

While a student at UConn, Dr. Nelson became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP). She stated, "...being a part of HCOP was a no brainer, because HCOP is the identified support system for minority students...getting and giving support to individuals... (minority population) it didn't seem optional." She describes mentoring as her best HCOP experience. The Jumpstart 9 & 10, Junior and Senior Doctors Academy students look forward to seeing her each Saturday. "Being away from my family, the students give me a reason to get out of bed because they confide in me, they bring pertinent questions about their career interests and life. I truly feel like I am helping them and I am positive that they are helping me." Dr. Nelson has always gone above and

beyond mentoring responsibilities. The students email her for advice and she has kept in contact with former Academy students who are currently in college and plans to continue mentoring them.

While planning her own goals and path to dental school, she searched for summer programs and applied to and was accepted into the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program (MDPP) at the UConn Health Center. The program focused on academic skills as well as preparation for the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). Since 2010, she has volunteered in the Dental Impressions component and student panel at the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference. In 2009, she began to participate in the Upward Bound Conference as a panelist and a student volunteer in the Dental Forensic Workshop. She has also served as a panelist at the Welcoming of First Year Medical and Dental Students and participates in numerous Student National Dental Associa-



tion community events and in the Student National Medical Association Academy mentoring events.

Dr. Nelson is currently completing her General Practice Residency at Hartford Hospital, Connecticut. She does not plan to specialize because it is her belief that, "if you love dentistry, then you are a general dentist." Dr. Nelson is interested in public health and those individuals that need

general oral health care in underserved communities.

When asked who she wishes to recognize as the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. Nelson responded: “My mom, kinda cliché, but that’s the truth. She never graduated from high school and when she became a single-parent with the death of my father, she became super-human. Whenever I brought her an idea, her first response was, “what do we need?” That kind of support, made me truly feel like I could

do anything. Dr. Cynthia Hodge, Assistant Professor in the Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences, one of my mentors in the dental field; if she told me I can walk on water, I would give it a shot. Dr. Hodge understood my story, my strengths and my limitations and was able to believe in me when I doubted myself. Her words are always able to reach me, and she has been a guiding light.

Everyone should have their very own copy of Dr. Hodge. Last, but certainly not least, is my support team. I hear my generation and the younger generations complain about “haters.” “Personally, if I have such “haters,” I don’t know about them. I have surrounded myself with supportive, caring people that want to see me do well. When I feel like I can’t stay up one more minute, read one more line..., I gather motivation from the dozens of people who believe in me and want to see me do well. Thus, in an effort to not let them or myself

down, I keep going because, ‘those of us who can, must.’”

When asked who she would like to thank, Dr. Nelson stated, “...I always express gratitude to God, who made sure I landed safely every time I took a leap of faith; to my family and friends who provided unconditional support and love through this process (shout out to Keisha, Tracian, Chelda, Jessica – who all made several trips to CT); to my undergraduate professors, Dr. Lyons, Drs. Granville and Louise Wrensford and Dr. Chan; to Ms. Natalie Knox and Ms. Jessie Dawson who became



my surrogate family in undergrad; special thanks to Dr. Tong, for his incredible contribution to my professional goals. Here at UCHC, I would like to acknowledge the faculty, support staff, mentors and friends who ensured my professional growth and my sanity. The list is long and I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone. I however, vow to pay it forward, to ensure that your investment of time, love and support was well spent.”

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “Decide on your ‘end-game’, i.e., what are your professional and personal goals? From there, structure your life in a way that ensures that every decision you make is headed in that direction. Simple things like, should I go to the movies, should make you pause and check in with your goals and decide if it’s a good idea, that way, you never get off track, even if you’re delayed or detoured, the plan is still intact.”

Congratulations to our mentors and past program participants - UCONN Health Center Medical and Dental School 2013 Graduates

Tiffany Brady, DMD
Pauley Chea, MD
Jeffrey Cranford, MD
Kareem Douglas, MD
Melissa Hamilton, MD
Shawnet Jones, MD

Victoria Massey, DMD
Tara Mould, MD
Tashiba Nelson, DMD
Nastassia Shaw, MD
Stacy White, MD
Si (Dave) Woo, MD

Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) Medical/Dental Student 2013 Bridge Mentoring Award



Tashiba Nelson, D.M.D.



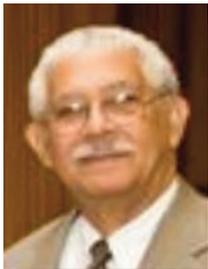
Melissa Hamilton, M.D.



Shawnet Jones, M.D.

HCOP recognized one dental student and two medical students for their continued participation and involvement with the Aetna HPPI Programs with the Bridge Mentoring Award. The 2013 recipients were: Tashiba Nelson, D.M.D. who will be completing her General Practice Residency at Hartford Hospital, CT; Melissa Hamilton, M.D., Family Medicine Residency at the University of Connecticut Health Center; and Shawnet Jones, M.D. who will be completing a Family Medicine Residency at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. 2013 Scholarship Recipient



In honor of Dr. Boake Plessy's contributions, the UConn Health Center has established a scholarship fund that is used to support educational enhancement for students who participated in the Aetna HPPI Academy and are planning to continue their education at the post-secondary level.

The Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs – Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship was awarded to Debbie-Ann Jackson at the Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony. Ms. Jackson will be attending the University of Connecticut.



To contribute to Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund or for more information about philanthropy to support the Health Career Opportunity Programs at the UConn Health Center, please call: Abigail O'Brien, Director of Development for Health Sciences at 860-679-4524.

2013 John & Valerie Rowe Scholarship Recipient



HCOP provides scholarships in the form of book awards to students from the Aetna HPPI Academy who will enroll as freshmen at the University of Connecticut. The 2013 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship was awarded to Ashley Arthur.

Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy Graduating Class of 2013!



Donna Aranibar
University of Connecticut



Dora Aranibar
University of Connecticut



Ashley Arthur
University of Connecticut



Yustyna Bobak
University of Connecticut



Jesus Bueno
University of Connecticut



Whitney Davis
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute



Aleena Durant
Eastern Connecticut State
University



Madeline Fall
Ohio State University



Naomi Gurahoo
University of Bridgeport



Perri Higgins
Hampton University



Debby-Ann Jackson
University of Connecticut



Tiarra Payge
Southern Connecticut
State University



Shamika Smith
Southern Connecticut
State University



Travis Townsend
Saint Rose College



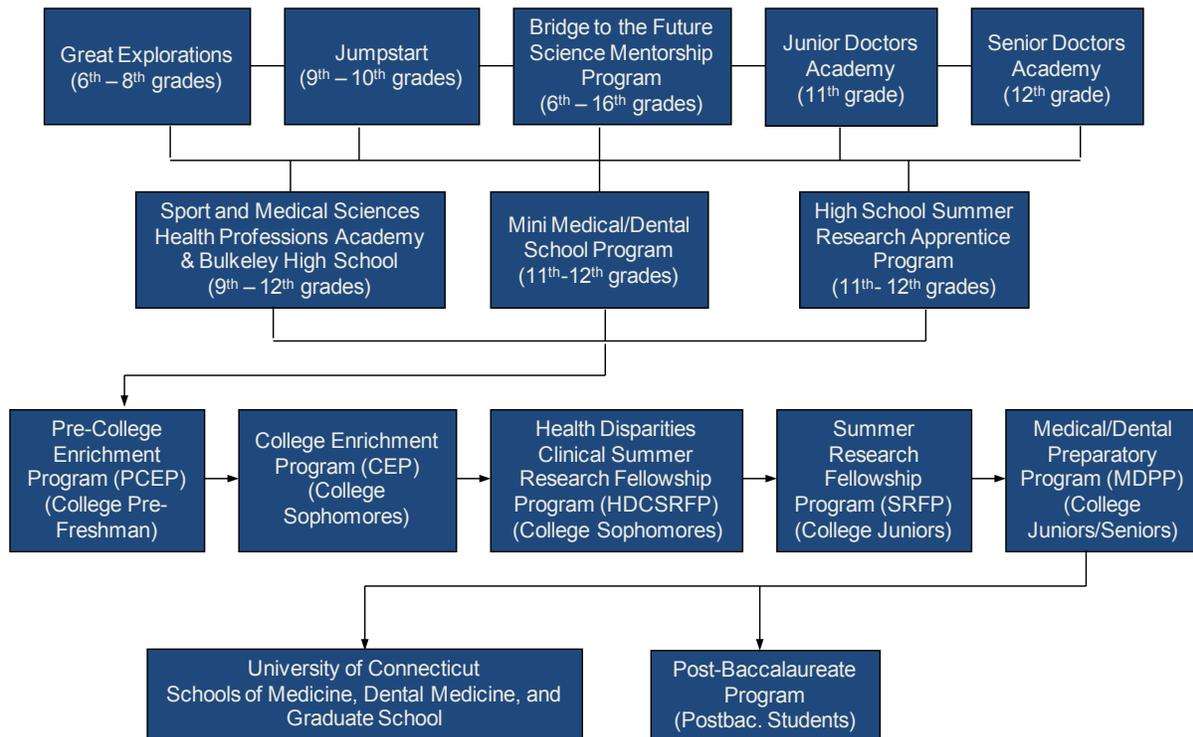
Cristal Vazquez
Central Connecticut State
University



Delisa Williamson
Southern Connecticut
State University

Hard work
HCOP: Career-Focused
Optimal Performance
Persistence

Aetna HPPI Pipeline



2012 Upward Bound Conference

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs held its annual Upward Bound Conference on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The conference is held annually for students in the Upward Bound Program from the UConn Storrs campus.

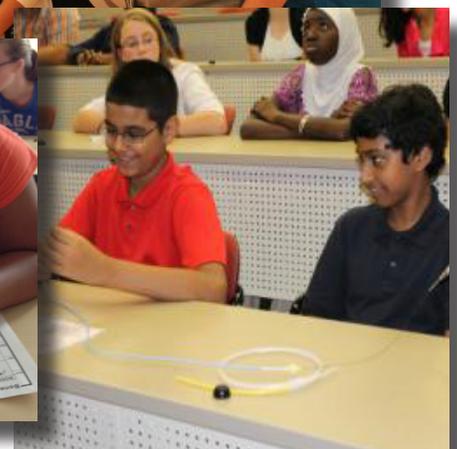
Approximately 40 high school students participated in various health related activities. Students attended presentations by fourth year Ph.D. student, Keshia Ashe, who spoke about her discovery in research and her path to graduate research. Ms. Tiffany St. Bernard, a research assistant, spoke to the students about the college application process.

Eleventh and twelfth grade participants were guided through a dental forensics lab of a “crash scene” which enabled them to identify “crash victims” through dental forensics led by Dr. Michael Goupil. The conference concluded with a panel of Health Center medical, dental, and graduate students answering participants’ questions.



Aetna HPPI Academy and Great Explorations Students Academic Enrichment Experiences

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (Aetna HPPI) Academy students (The Jumpstart 9 & 10, Junior and Senior Doctors Academies) took field trips to the New Britain Museum of American Art, the UConn Health Center and to the UConn Storrs campus. The Great Exploration students visited the UConn Health Center in Farmington and the Connecticut Science Center.



Great Explorations

The Great Explorations Program is an enrichment program designed to provide extracurricular activities in math, science, and language arts to 7th and 8th grade middle school students. Students participating in the Great Explorations Program are currently enrolled in one of eight middle schools: Bellizzi, Jumoke Academy, Kennelly, Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy, Naylor, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies, and Two Rivers Magnet Middle School. Great Explorations also offers a four-week summer academic enrichment program for approximately 35 rising 7th and 8th grade participants. The summer activities are conducted at the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science. Students receive instruction in math, science, and language arts.

Starting in the fall of 2013, the Great Explorations Program will expand to include a 30 week Saturday Academy for 8th graders. The summer academic enrichment component will expand to six weeks.

Aetna HPPI Academy

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Academy (Aetna HPPI Academy) is designed to provide educational opportunities which may not be available to a number of Connecticut high school students. The purpose of the Aetna HPPI Academy is to provide access and preparation to students interested in health professions who come from backgrounds where they are the first in their family to earn a four-year degree, come from modest family means, and/or are from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in healthcare. Students participating in the Aetna HPPI Academy are generally recruited from the Hartford area schools and strive to become physicians, dentists, biomedical research scientists, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals.

The Aetna HPPI Academy has two major components: the summer program and the academic year program. Both components are offered at the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford campus. The summer and academic year programs are designed to advance students' academic skill levels in math, science and language arts. The programs promote personal growth through extracurricular experi-



ences designed to help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and the American College Test (ACT).

High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series

The High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series offers eight to ten weekly lectures and demonstrations presented by faculty members of the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Topics include molecular biology, pharmacology, cardiology, oncology, and dental medicine.

Participants are eleventh and twelfth grade students who are in-state residents and selected by their school guidance counselors or science teachers. All students have shown a strong interest in pursuing careers in medicine, dental medicine and the biological sciences. Sessions are also broadcast live to high schools throughout the State of Connecticut. For more information contact Anastasia Rollins at 860-679-3484 or email: rollins@uchc.edu.



High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program

Sixteen students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2013 High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program. As part of the 2013 program, seven students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State University and nine students commuted daily to the UConn Health Center for their research project. At the end of the summer, each student gave oral and poster presentations of their research results during a special research symposium.

Epidemiology

The Epidemiology Program, a series of five programs, was held for students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) to introduce basic concepts and terminology used in the study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wetstone and Dr. Richard Stevens, the program provided an introduction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Fifteen 11th and 12th graders attended sessions at the University of Connecticut Health Center on four occasions and Dr. Scott Wetstone and Dr. Richard Stevens visited SMSA on one occasion.

Teens as Teachers

The University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Principles of Clinical Medicine course (PCM) is the clinical training component for medical students. The course helps students prepare for the clinical aspects of medicine by training them in history taking, physical examination, utilization of community resources and community collaboration for improved patient care.

Part of the course involves training on adolescent health. Medical students learn about the importance and specialized aspects of the adolescent history, and practice their skills with real teens recruited from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy and CREC - Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy, who act as patient instructors. The medical students then receive feedback on their performance from the adolescent patient instructors. The participating adolescents are given health education workshops and training prior to their participation in the PCM course.



College Science Partnership

More than 100 students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy participated in the 2012-2013 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin (Molecular Biological Sciences Department at Central Connecticut State University), students participated in five biology and chemistry labs at Central Connecticut State University. The students also visited the UConn Health Center and interacted with various health professionals.



Pre-College Enrichment Program/Biomedical Engineering Bridge Program



Pre-College Enrichment Program students who will be attending the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus.

The Pre-College Enrichment Program is a six-week residential enrichment program for incoming students at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. Designed to provide solid development of scientific, mathematical, communications, problem-solving, and test-taking skills, it is intended to enhance the college preparedness of freshmen students. It allowed the students to experience life on a college campus prior to their matriculation in the fall. Students can participate in either the academic (academic courses) or a research track (completion of a research project). This past summer, 14 students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the University of Connecticut School of Engineering Bridge Program at Storrs. All participants also engaged in numerous enrichment activities at the UConn Health Center.

College Enrichment Program

The College Enrichment Program is designed for rising college sophomores. The program's curriculum focuses on critical math and science skills needed for success. A total of six students are selected annually to participate in this program. The program is held at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. In addition to academic preparation, students participate in weekly enrichment lectures at the UConn Health Center.

Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a ten-week research enrichment experience designed for college sophomores, juniors, seniors, and recent graduates who are interested in a career in medicine, dental medicine or biomedical research and for applicants who have completed some college coursework in biology and chemistry (preferably through organic chemistry). In the summer of 2013 a total of nine students participated in the program. A faculty sponsor is identified for each student. Faculty develops and makes available suitable project descriptions. The student contacts his/her faculty sponsor in April or May and develops a research protocol. Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) students are encouraged to apply. Students devote approximately 30 hours per week on a research project and 10 hours per week of clinical experience.

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program



Medical/Dental Preparatory Program students are selected from various universities throughout the country to work on academic skills as well as preparation for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). A total of 33 college students participated in academic classes, guest lecturers, test taking strategies, and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health Center during the six-week summer program.

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program



The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a seven-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores, juniors, seniors or recent graduates. In the summer of 2013, twelve students participated in the program. The program is designed to provide the following: clinical research and enrichment experiences, an introduction to health disparities across cultures, principles of clinical medicine, public health research and interventions, an overview of cultural definitions, public health issues, and discussions of specific techniques for working with diverse populations in community settings. The participants completed a clinical research project and presented a poster with their results at the end of the program.

College Lecture Series

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative offers a series of lectures from different health care providers at the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford campus and Storrs campus. The lecture series is geared towards students with an interest in health professions.

This past academic year, speakers included: Dr. Richard Zeff, Professor, Department of Immunology, Assistant Dean of Admissions, School of Medicine; Dr. Edward Thibodeau, Associate Dean, Dental Admissions; and Dr. Carol Pilbeam, Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedics, Director, M.D./Ph.D. Combined Degree Program.

For additional information, please contact Marlyn Davila at 860-679-4522.

Parental Seminar Series



Dr. Thelissa Harris



Lori O'Keefe, RN, BSN, CDE



Dr. Beatriz Tendler

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Parental Seminar Series is an opportunity for students and parents to learn more about important health issues affecting their community. Parents are asked to submit a survey on the topics they are most interested in learning about and the series of lectures is then tailored for their needs. LeKesha Williams, Kaplan Coordinator, presented on the topic of *PSAT and SAT Prep*; college financial aid and the admissions process was presented by Carlos Soler, Assistant Director of Admission for Central Connecticut State University, Aida Silva, the Associate Director of Admission for the University of Connecticut and Cliff Thornton, the Associate Dean of Admission for Wesleyan University. Dr. Thelissa Harris, Psychiatrist, presented on *Stress Management*; Dr. Beatriz Tendler, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center, presented on *Diabetes, Hypertension & Sodium*; Lori O'Keefe, RN, BSN, CDE, Diabetes Nurse Educator at the University of Connecticut Health Center presented on *Diabetes Mellitus and Nutrition*.

Culture Shock

Each year the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosts Culture Shock, an event sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the diversity of our Health Center community through food, poetry, fashion, song, dance, and other artistic presentations. Participants enjoy a wide array of local and international cuisine which are obtained through donations from many restaurants and individuals from the UConn Health Center.

Last year, Culture Shock was held on December 14, 2012 in the UConn Health Center's Keller Auditorium. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to Malta House of Care. The Malta House of Care is a non-profit organization that provides free medical services to the uninsured residents of Hartford. The Malta House of Care began with an enthusiastic board of founders and a small group of volunteers, but has grown, evolving into a grass-roots community resource. The Malta House of Care Mobile Medical Clinic (MHC) opened its doors in 2006 and has thus far provided over 25,000 free patient visits through a volunteer staff of over 80 physicians, nurses and non-medical volunteers.



From left: Caroline Rogi, 2nd year medical student, Trisha Maloney, 2nd year dental student, Shirin Karimi, 2nd year medical student, Khadija Khan, 3rd year dental student, Ela Banerjee, 2nd year medical student.

Below, Olayinka (Yinka) Edwards, 2nd year medical student performs.



Physician/Student Mentoring

Although several of our medical and dental students are mentors to our Aetna Health Career Opportunity Program academy students, they themselves are mentored by doctors in their respective fields.



From left: Keisha White (an AHPPI mentor), Dr. Samuel Anyatonwu, Latoya Codougan, Stacey-Ann Smith.

From left: Alisha Stephens, Dr. Garry Turner, Tatiana Duggan (an AHPPI mentor), Ashley Wiltshire.



Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

The 2013 annual Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 13, with approximately 160 high school and college students participating. The students were brought together with UConn Health Center faculty, staff, medical, dental and graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness about health and biomedical science careers and the admissions process for medical, dental, and graduate schools. The HCOP Department, the University of Connecticut Chapter of the Student National Medical Association, Student National Dental Association, the Jack and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund and the Hispanic Student Dental Association Chapters sponsored this year's conference.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Arnold Peterson, (top left photo) a University of Connecticut School of Medicine graduate Class of 2008, spoke to the students about his personal journey through medical school and his professional career. Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on preparing for a career in the health professions by Dr. Marja M. Hurley, Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, Institutional Designee, AAMC, Group on Women in Medicine and Science, Associate Dean, and Associate Director, Health Career Opportunity Programs and dentistry by Dr. Arthur Hand, Professor in the Department of Craniofacial Sciences and Cell Biology and Assistant Dean for Medical and graduate Education.

Led by a group of UConn medical students, the high school students participated in hands-on activities such as recording blood pressure and surgical suturing. Students also had the opportunity to participate in an anatomy workshop led by Dr. Dale Matheson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell



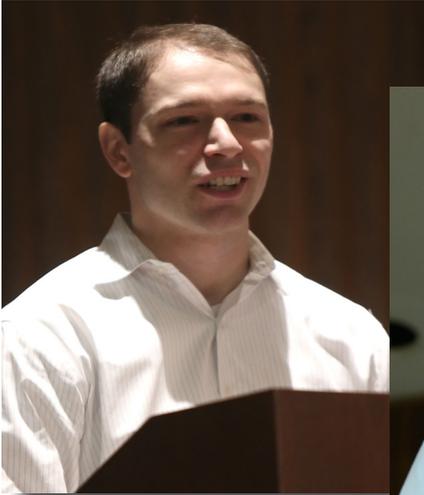
Biology. College students who participated in enrichment seminars learned about the admissions process for graduate, medical and dental programs offered at the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.

The college students also participated in a mock admissions process where they served as potential Admissions Committee evaluators. Student participants ranked prospective applicants based on their academic profiles, letters of recommendation and DAT/MCAT scores. Led by facilitators, the participants engaged in discussions and activities similar to the admissions committees at the Health Center. This process helped the students better understand what admissions committees are looking for in qualified candidates.

For college students specifically interested in dental medicine, the Dental Impressions Program held a series of information sessions which included hands-on activities such as taking dental impressions and touring the dental labs at the Health Center.

Both the high school and college students had opportunities to listen to personal anecdotes from students currently enrolled at the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences. The medical, dental and graduate students shared their progression through their respective health professions school and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions.

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference Guest Speakers



Clockwise from top left: Keynote speaker, Dr. Arnold Peterson, a University of Connecticut School of Medicine graduate '08; Dr. Dale Matheson, Assistant Professor, Department of Cell Biology; Nataly McDonald, Junior Doctors Academy; Audience listening to Dr. Peterson; Dr. Carol Pilbeam, Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedics, Director, M.D./Ph.D. Combined Degree Program; Dr. Arthur Hand, Professor in the Department of Craniofacial Sciences and Cell Biology and Assistant Dean for Medical and Graduate Education.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2012-2013 Academic Year Program Closing Ceremony



The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) hosted its annual Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Programs (Aetna HPPI) on May 7, 2013 at Paterson Auditorium. This event marked the culmination of a very positive academic year enrichment experience for high school students from the Greater Hartford area who participated in the Jumpstart, Junior Doctors, and Senior Doctors Academies. Greetings were given by Dr. Frank Torti, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the UConn School of Medicine, Dr. Monty MacNeil, Dean of the UConn School of Dental Medicine and Mr. Chris Montross, Head of Corporate Community Investments/Employee Programs, Aetna Community Relations. The keynote speaker was the city of Hartford's Mayor Pedro E. Segarra who congratulated the students and challenged them to have a positive impact on reducing health disparities in the community. Student reflections were given by Jafet Rivera, a Jumpstart 9 participant, and Jesus Bueno, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and Class of 2013 graduate. Ms. Andrea Crittenden, one of the parents also gave an inspiring speech on the positive effects the programs have had on her two children who have participated in several of the HCOP programs.

All of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates will be attending a four-year college with six of them enrolling at the University of Connecticut. Ashley Arthur was awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship. Debby-Ann Jackson was awarded the Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs – Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship.

The Aetna HPPI is an education consortium offering a comprehensive program of educational enrichment and support activities to increase the competitive applicant pool of diverse students who are interested in careers in the health industry.

Top: Andrea Crittenden, parent; top left: Jesus Bueno, AHPPI Pipeline student; top right: Jafet Rivera, AHPPI Pipeline student; center: Keynote speaker: The Honorable Mayor Pedro E. Segarra; middle left: Dr. Frank Torti, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the UConn School of Medicine; middle right: Mr. Chris Montross, Head of Corporate Community Investments/Employee Programs, Aetna Community Relations; bottom: the senior AHPPI class of 2013.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2013 Summer Program Closing Ceremony



Keynote speaker, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman (Center) with students from the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative, Dr. Granville Wrensford, Ph.D. (2nd from left), Assistant Dean and Associate Director Health Career Opportunity Programs, Dr. Lamont MacNeil (3rd from left), Dean of the UConn School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Marja Hurley (10th from left), Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, Associate Dean & Director Health Career Opportunity Programs, Dr. Frank Torti (right), Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the UConn School of Medicine. (Photo credit: Janine Gelineau/UConn Health Center)

Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman was the keynote speaker for the Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) and Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative closing ceremonies. More than 200 middle school, high school and college students and their families attended the event held at the UConn Health Center.

A research symposium and poster presentations were also part of the event which marked the culmination of weeks of research and clinical internships for the aspiring physicians, dentists and scientists. “You are going into the best field ever because as much as you’re going to give, you’re going to get back,” said Wyman. “There are a lot of people out there that need you.”

Wyman told the students she started her career in health care. She was a candy striper in high school and then later became an x-ray technician – at the time, a male-dominated field. “When you decide what you want to do, look at not only what is happening now, think about what could be happening in the future, where you want to be and how you want to serve the community.”

Dr. Marja Hurley, Associate Dean and Director of HCOP, introduced Wyman and Dr. Nisar Zaidi, a 2008 UConn School of Medicine graduate who is now a general surgeon at Central Maine Medical Center, gave alumni welcoming remarks.

Greetings were given by Dr. R. Lamont MacNeil, Dean of the UConn School of Dental Medicine and Dr. Frank Torti, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the UConn School of Medicine, who told the students, “All of you are gifted folks who can do many things. But there is nothing more important, there is nothing more satisfying in life, than helping other people.”

The UConn Health Center’s Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) is designed to raise awareness and proficiency in science among Connecticut students from diverse backgrounds, provide them a mentoring and support system, and encourage them to pursue health professional careers.

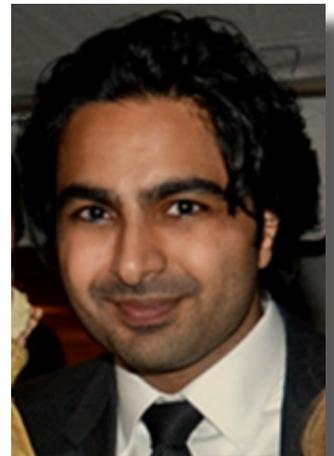
--Written by Carolyn Pennington

Guest Speakers for the 2013 Summer Program Closing Ceremony



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman began her service in government more than thirty years ago when she successfully ran for a seat on her local school board so she could have a say in the education of her two young daughters. After eight years on the Tolland Board of Education, she was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1986. In 1994, she was the first woman ever to be elected State Comptroller, and for the next sixteen years used that office to advocate for fiscal responsibility and accountability on behalf of taxpayers. She also administered the health insurance plan for all state employees, retirees and their families. Since being elected Connecticut's 108th Lieutenant Governor in 2010, she has been a true partner to Governor Dannel P. Malloy as they work to help the state recover from the economic downturn and build a foundation for long-term stability and prosperity. Lieutenant Governor Wyman is a former x-ray technician known as a tireless advocate for improving health care access and affordability. She is prominent in efforts to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for many years has been closely involved with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Kidney Foundation and the American Heart Association. The Lieutenant Governor is now Chair of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, which is charged with implementing federal health care reform by 2014. She is also Chair of the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap.

Nisar Zaidi, M.D. was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and raised in Massachusetts and Connecticut. He attended Southington High School graduating in June 1999. During high school, Dr. Zaidi participated in the High School Student Research Apprentice Program the summers of 1997 and 1998 and was a participant in the Pre College Enrichment Program the summer of 1999 prior to matriculating at the University of Connecticut. During college, he continued his involvement in the pipeline participating in the Clinical College Enrichment Program the summer of 2000, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Track Two Basic Medical Sciences Program the summer of 2001, and the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2002. In his early years of medical school, Dr. Zaidi was a Kaplan Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) instructor for the Medical/Dental Preparatory Track One MCAT Program for several summers and also instructed during the academic year on the Storrs Campus. He graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in May of 2008 receiving the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Award for excellent service in academic inspiration and guidance with special recognition for his exemplary service and dedication to students in the Health Professions Partnership Initiative. Dr. Zaidi began his General Surgery Residency at New York Medical College's St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan until the hospital closed and continued his training at Columbia University's Stamford Hospital completing his residency recently in June. He is currently on the General Surgery Staff at Central Maine Medical Center where he will be working before leaving for an Endocrine Surgery Fellowship in Sydney, Australia.



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University of Connecticut Health Center

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Acknowledgement of our Parents, Teachers, Peer Counselors and Mentors

We thank you for your support and continued encouragement
and commitment to the students



Important Dates

April 11, 2014

Pre-Health Advisors Regional
Conference

April 12, 2014

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring
Conference

May 20, 2014

Aetna HPPI Academy Closing Ceremony

June 23, 2014

Start of the Aetna HPPI Summer
Academy

Application Deadlines

March 1, 2014

- Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program
- High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series
- Medical/Dental Preparatory Program
- Summer Research Fellowship Program

April 2014

- Aetna HPPI Great Explorations
- Aetna HPPI Academy
- High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program
- College Enrichment Program
- Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program
- Pre-College Research Program

For more information about the
University of Connecticut Health Center's
Pipeline Programs listed below,
visit us at: www.hcop.uchc.edu

- Great Explorations Middle School Program, 6th-8th grades
- Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Academy 6-week Summer and 30-week Academic Year Programs, 8th-12th grades
- High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program, 11th-12th grades
- High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series, 11th-12th grades
- Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program, 9th-16th grades
- Pre-College Enrichment Program, 13th grade
- Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, 13th-16th grades
- College Enrichment Program, 13th-14th grades
- Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, 13th-15th grades
- Summer Research Fellowship Program, 15th-16th grades
- Post Baccalaureate Program, post-16th grades
- BS/DMD Joint Degree Program, 13th-16th grades



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