Dean’s Letter

Match Day 2013

On March 15th, TUSM’s fourth-year medical students joined family, faculty, and staff to learn where they will begin their residency training this spring. Among the most popular specialties were Internal Medicine (35), Family Medicine (24), Anesthesiology (20), and Emergency Medicine (18). All 39 students who applied to highly competitive specialties were accepted. Thirty-nine percent of the class matched in Primary Care (including residencies Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Family Medicine). This year’s Match Day also included the first cohort of 32 students in the “Maine Track” program; ten of these students are headed to residencies in Maine, along with three other students.

A total of 83 students (44%) will join residency programs in New England, including 53 who will remain in Massachusetts. Thirty-three will further their medical training at Tufts-affiliated hospital programs. Other popular destinations include California (17%) and New York (12%). TUSM graduates will join residency programs in a total of 24 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

Introducing Tufts CTSI Profiles

In February, CTSI launched Profiles, a free, web-based research networking tool designed to promote collaboration throughout the Tufts community. Available at https://profiles.med.tufts.edu, Profiles is a publicly accessible library of electronic curriculum vitae (CVs) and information about research at Tufts. Each Profile contains contact information, publications, primary research areas, co-authors, people with similar research interests, people who work in the same department, and people who work in neighboring offices. Researchers can use Tufts CTSI Profiles to find potential collaborators, co-authors, and mentors by logging in with their Universal Tufts Login Name (UTLN) and password. For more information, and to access instructional videos about how to get the most out of Profiles, visit the About Profiles page: http://informatics.tuftsctsi.org/profiles/.
News of Note

- Paul Summergrad, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, has been elected President-elect of the American Psychiatric Association (APA). The APA, founded in 1844, is the world’s largest psychiatric organization and publisher, including the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

- Tufts President Anthony Monaco, MD, PhD, is to be inducted into the Association of American Physicians (AAP) at a ceremony in Chicago in late April. The AAP was founded in 1885 for “the advancement of scientific and practical medicine.” The goals of its members include the pursuit of medical knowledge and the advancement of basic and clinical science through experimentation and discovery, and through their application to clinical medicine. Each year, individuals having attained excellence in achieving these goals are recognized by nomination for membership.

- Bree Aldridge, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology, received a two-year, $50,000 research fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation aimed at encouraging promising young scholars. Aldridge’s research combines microbiology and engineering approaches to understand the virulence and survival strategies of the bacterium that cause tuberculosis.

- Theoharis Theoharides, PhD, MD, Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology and Director of the Molecular Immunology and Drug Discovery Laboratory, was nominated to the 2013 Rare Disease Research Hall of Fame.

Community Service at TUSM: Health Impact Partnership

Engaging medical students as mentors, the Health Impact Partnership (HIP) is one of the many Community Service Learning (CSL) activities at TUSM. The program pairs medical students with students at Boston English High School (EHS) to teach leadership and advocacy skills through the lens of public health and medicine. This past fall, ten EHS student “Health Investigators” spent four months working with their TUSM mentors. Selecting obesity, diabetes, and barriers to healthy eating as areas for deeper analysis, the students designed a survey for their peers and developed an information session that described the results to them.

At the end of January, the EHS students presented their findings at TUSM. Before their talk, the students had the opportunity to meet with a range of healthcare professionals to discuss the career pathways into the field of healthcare. After the presentation, there was a lively discussion with the audience that touched on the issues of access to healthy foods and family involvement, and the challenges of a tightly scheduled school day. “Where I live, there’s lots of convenience stores and fast food,” said Jonathan Almanzar, a junior who worked on the diabetes survey. “But it’s harder to find the kinds of foods that we really should be eating.”

A new session of HIP is already underway at EHS. All of the students who participated in the program last fall will participate again, either continuing with their previous research or working on new projects, along with several other EHS students who have decided to join the program.

Public Health Week

In 1995, President Clinton proclaimed the first full week of April as National Public Health Week (NPHW) - a time to recognize the contributions of public health, and highlight issues that are important to improving the nation. Each year, NPHW focuses its effort on a different theme. This year’s activities take place from April 1st-7th, centering on the theme “Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money.”

Tufts Public Health has a number of events planned to celebrate National Public Health Week, including a photo contest, panel discussion, food demonstration, sessions with PHPD professors and visiting speakers, and a community service event.

A complete list of activities, logistics, and contact information is available online at: publichealth.tufts.edu.