



*Welcome from...*

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**W**e have 153 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2007 HPPI Summer Programs sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP). Starting in October 2007, we will have 1,150 students participating in our after school, partner high schools and Saturday academies. Early exposure to the various fields in the biomedical sciences will ultimately increase the diverse pool of students who pursue careers in medicine and dental medicine.

HCOP is an integral part of the Schools of Dental Medicine and Medicine's educational community at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine are actively committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of diverse dental and medical students who are capable of providing culturally competent health care.

The HPPI programs and activities that are designed, coordinated and implemented through this department, have proven to be top-notch because the underrepresented students who have successfully completed their undergraduate degrees have actualized their goals of entering medical or dental school. It is for this reason that the programs and activities sponsored through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs is recognized as a national model. To date we have accomplished our goals and continue to develop new programs and fine-tune existing ones.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our faculty, staff and students at the health center and partner institutions for their dedication and support of these programs. I would also like to thank all of our funders for their continued financial support to our programs. A special recognition to the legislators of the state of Connecticut, who have provided HPPI with newly-awarded state funds to support some of our existing programmatic initiatives.

Read about the Health Professions Partnership Initiative and Pipeline programs at:  
<http://medicine.uhc.edu/prospective/enrichment/hcop/index.html>

## 2007 BRIDGE CONFERENCE



On Saturday, April 14, 2007 over 100 high school and college students from diverse backgrounds were brought together with UCHC faculty/staff, medical, dental and graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness on health and biomedical science careers at the Bridge to the Future Science Mentorship Conference. The program is sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity

Programs at the University of Connecticut (UConn) Health Center, the UConn Student National Medical and Dental Association Chapters and the Hispanic Dental Student Chapter. Special recognition should be given to Ms. Jiill Espelin, faculty at UConn School of Nursing and Mr. Clifford Thornton, Associate Dean of Admission, Wesleyan University. The Jack and Valerie Row Health Professions Scholars Program Fund and a grant from the MassMutual Foundation supported the conference. The keynote speaker for the 2007 Bridge Conference was Douglas McCrory, State Representative for Hartford, Connecticut (7th Assembly District) and Assistant Principal at Bulkeley High School.

The 2007 Bridge to the Future Science Mentorship Conference offered two strands of programming, one for high school students and the other for current college students.

For the high school students, Dr. Roger S. Thrall delivered a presentation on Asthma, Dr. Henry Furneaux provided a presentation on the Biology of Cancer and Dr. Barbara Kream, provided a presentation about the M.D./Ph.D. program. Under the leadership of the HPPI Site Coordinators, Dr. Kathy Martin-Troy (Central Connecticut State University) and Leo Lachut, Counselor, Student Support Services (University of Connecticut Storrs Campus) high school participants were excited and challenged about their knowledge of science, math and the college experience by playing Team Jeopardy.

College student participants learned about the admissions process for medical and dental school and to the graduate programs at UCHC. Dr. Keat Sanford, Assistant Dean of Admissions at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine put the college students into the hot seat as potential admissions committee evaluators. Student participants ranked prospective applicants based on their academic profiles, letters of recommendation and DAT/MCAT scores. This process helped the students better understand what admissions committees are looking for in qualified candidates.

Both the high school and college students had an opportunity to listen to personal anecdotes from students currently enrolled at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Dental Medicine or School of Nursing. The medical, dental and nursing students shared their progression through their respective health professions school and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions. This was a very informative exchange of dialog for all participants.



## ACADEMIC YEAR CLOSING CEREMONY



The 6th Annual HPPI Secondary School Student and Partner

Recognition Ceremony scheduled Thursday, June 7, 2007. Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director African-American Affairs Commission, State of Connecticut was the keynote speaker. Deputy Mayor Veronica Airey-Wilson, Hartford Court of Common Council brought greetings. Miriam Taylor, Principal, Bulkeley High School and Dr. Rochelle Jones, Assistant Principal, Health Careers Academy, Weaver High School also spoke at this event. Leah Fichtner, Senior Director to Student Learning Support Services represented the Hartford Public School Superintendent's Office.



## UCHC FACULTY RECOGNITION

The 4th Annual HPPI Faculty Recognition Award was made to Dr. Flavio Uribe, Program Director, Division of Orthodontics, University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.



(UConn, CCSU or Wesleyan). Eligible students must have participated in HPPI sponsored programs, demonstrate academic promise and financial need. The 2007 HPPI Mass Mutual scholarships were awarded on June 7, 2007 at the Academic Year Closing and Sixth Annual Recognition Ceremony. The 2007 HPPI scholarship recipients are Joshua Freeman (UConn), Fludiona Naka (Wesleyan University), Shanado Williams (UConn) and Mark Montavalo (UConn).

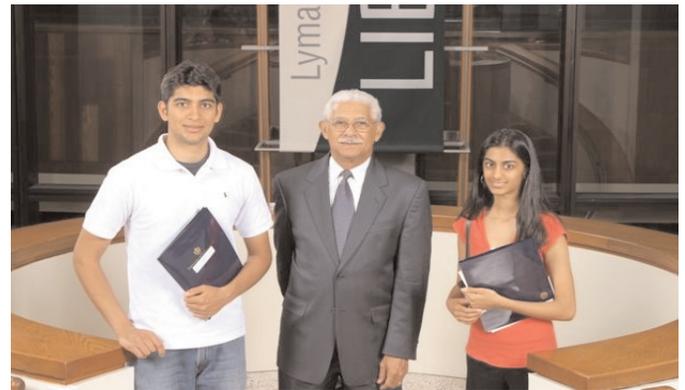
## JENNIFER SMITH FUNDS MEDICAL STUDENT MENTORING RECOGNITION AWARD



The Jennifer Smith Scholarship Fund was established by Ms. Smith who was the first African American chairperson of the Health Affairs Committee, University of Connecticut Board of Trustees. The recipient of this year's

award is Kristen Glasgow, a third-year medical student who has been a mentor for the HPPI middle school and high school students since her first year as a medical student. Kristen was a Health Education teacher for the Great Explorations Summer 2006 Program, Youth Science Enrichment Program (YSEP) teacher and Mentor for the Juniors Doctors Academy 11th grade program. In addition, Kristen is a graduate from Wesleyan University which is one of our college partners.

## FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND



In honor of Dr. Boake Plessy's contributions, the University of Connecticut has established a scholarship fund that will be used to support educational enhancement for students who participated in HPPI programs and are planning to continue their education at the post-secondary level. The Friends of the Department of Health Careers Opportunity Programs scholarships were awarded on June 7, 2007 at the Academic Year Closing and Sixth Annual Recognition Ceremony. The recipients are Sejal Faldu (UConn) and Sagar Faldu (UConn). To contribute to the fund, please contact the University of Connecticut Foundation at 860-679-1701.

## HPPI SCHOLARSHIPS



The Massachusetts Mutual Foundation committed \$8,000 in scholarship monies for qualified students who plan to enroll in one of the three HPPI College Partners

## ROWE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Jack and Valerie Row Health Professions Scholars Program Fund provided scholarships for students, including HPPI students, who are interested in medicine or dental medicine accepted to the honors program at the University of Connecticut. This year's HPPI recipient is Roberto Henry. Roberto participated in the High School Research Apprentice Program in 2006.

## Congratulations Medical Graduate!

*Cynthia Roque graduated on May 13, 2007 from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Cynthia greatly appreciates all the support the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health Center has provided her over the years.*



**Tori:** Will you specialize?

**Cynthia:** Yes. I will specialize in pediatrics. I knew by the end of my third year I would focus in pediatrics.

**Tori:** Where will you do your residency?

**Cynthia:** Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford, Connecticut, which is great because I am originally from Waterbury, Connecticut and most of my family and friends are here in Connecticut. CCMC is the best choice for me. Once I complete my residency, I would like to continue to work as a primary care physician in community health centers.

**Tori:** Where did you get your undergraduate degree?

**Cynthia:** I received my undergraduate degree from Columbia University, New York. My major was psychology. I am the first in my family to graduate from college and the first medical doctor.

**Tori:** When did you realize you wanted to be a doctor?

**Cynthia:** I realized I wanted to be a doctor in 7th grade because I loved science and I loved people. I was advised in the 8th grade to become a volunteer in a hospital (candy striper). As a candy striper, I received training by the Waterbury Hospital volunteer program and was exposed to various aspects of the hospital environment. In addition, I was encouraged to get good grades. As a result, I was valedictorian in middle school and high school which is

how I received a full scholarship to Columbia University where I was pre-med. While I was at Columbia University, I volunteered at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital in New York. Also, I received teaching skills from an AmeriCorp Program called Jumpstart which allowed me to work with head start students in underserved areas who needed extra attention. Once I graduated from Columbia, I explored other options with working with children. I was a second grade teacher in the South Bronx for one year. I left New York and taught in Connecticut schools for a year. It was after being out of school for two years that I realized being a doctor would be most fulfilling to me. I was very excited to be accepted to UConn School of Medicine.

**Tori:** How long did it take for you to complete your medical degree?

**Cynthia:** It took a little longer than four years because I was raising my son, Jovan, while I was in medical school. Although I faced a lot of challenges, I realized many people were willing to help. As the first in my family to obtain a graduate degree, many of my family members and friends were very supportive.

**Tori:** What did you like most about your experience at the UConn School of Medicine?

**Cynthia:** We are like a family. The friendships I made at UConn School of Medicine will be deep meaningful friendships that I will forever cherish. It was easy for us to bond because we created a support system amongst ourselves. I owe graduating from medical school to the times I spent laughing, crying and studying with my classmates. I don't know what I would have done without them.

**Tori:** What was the difference between your first year and fourth year?

**Cynthia:** My first year was the hardest because I had to adjust before I could thrive. It took a while to settle in and know what was expected of us as medical students. It required a lot of time management skills. By the time I reached my fourth year, I had mastered academics, clinical skills and still had time for community service. I was finally eager to shift my focus from what I needed to do to succeed as a medical student to what I needed to do for my future career and myself. So, I would have to say that the last two years of medical school were much less difficult than the first two. Now, I am looking forward to practicing everything I learned in medical school about medicine and life.

## SECOND YEAR DENTAL STUDENT HPPI PIPELINE: From High School to Dental School



Ron Birmingham, a second year dental student at the UConn, School of Dental Medicine is one of the many students that realized his dreams and found a lasting career choice with Dentistry through the Health Career Opportunity Programs Department and its Pipeline Program.

Ron was first introduced into the Pipeline with the High School Student Research Apprentice Program in the summer of 2000. The following summer Ron enrolled in the Pre-College Enrichment Program at UConn, Storrs, prior to his matriculation there. The summer after his freshman year, it was the College Enrichment Program and the summer after sophomore year, it was Track 2 of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Programs (MDPP).

After the junior year, DAT or MCAT preparation becomes a priority for the pre-dental or pre-med student and for this reason, the MDPP was created. Track 1 offers a Kaplan study course in addition to opportunities to shadow the different health professions. Track 2 offers a simulation of a medical school curriculum for those considering medical or dental school or a 'head start' to those who might be matriculating. The MDPP also entails a curriculum filled with professional development and cultural competency courses much needed in the education of future health professionals.

"Track 1 and the Kaplan study course offered by HCOP gave me the opportunity to study for the DAT exam, shadow/engage faculty, and get introduced to one of the premier dental schools in the country." The fall following Track 1, Ron was accepted into the UConn School of Dental Medicine. That summer Ron was back in Track 2 of the MDPP! Six summers after his journey through the HCOP Pipeline, Ron's goal of becoming a health professional is becoming a reality.

After completing his first year as a dental student, Ronald appreciates the amount of knowledge he has obtained in a short period of time. In addition, Ronald takes the time for extracurricular activities such as basketball and the Class Representative between the faculty and students. Also, Ronald is a member of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA). Ronald had the opportunity to travel with the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) to Washington, D.C. in April 2007 where he had an opportunity to meet state representatives. At this ASDA conference, Ronald met people from all over the country who were leaders in ASDA. This three-day experience provided him with exposure to law, politics and public health.

The summer of 2007 will be Ronald's first time working for HCOP as a RA/Tutor for MDPP which is housed at Central Connecticut State University.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Project Outreach

June 2006 – June 2007 Rafael Pacheco, third-year medical student developed the Peer-Mentors Director joined by medical and dental students to implement a series of activities to increase awareness on the health professions to high school students in the greater Hartford area.

### College Science Partnership

More than 70 students from Bulkeley High School Health Professions Academy participated in the 2006-2007 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin-Troy (Molecular Biological Sciences Department at CCSU) students participated in 10 biology and chemistry labs at CCSU.

### Epidemiology

A series of eight programs was held for seniors at Bulkeley High Schools Health Professions Academy to introduce basic concepts and terminology used in the study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wetstone, the Epidemiology Program looked at medical journal articles, research premises, activities and outcomes.

### Great Explorations

Now in its fifth year, the Great Explorations Program is fully operational at Bellizzi Middle School, Naylor School and Kennelly School in Hartford, Connecticut. Funded by the AETNA Foundation, Great Explorations provides programs designed to raise awareness of careers in the health professions and college preparation to middle school students. More than 352 students in grades 6-8 at Bellizzi Middle School, Kennelly and Naylor schools have participated in programs provided by Great Explorations this year.

Kathy Martin-Troy, PhD., Biomolecular Sciences at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and other professors and students from CCSU provide after school programs at each of our partner middle schools. In addition, the students visit our partner colleges for campus tours. Seventh graders visited





Wesleyan University and received greetings from the Dean. The 8th graders visited the University of Connecticut Storrs campus and received greetings from Steve Jarvi, Assistant Vice Provost, Director, Academic Center for Exploratory Services.

Great Explorations also offers a 4-week summer program for rising 8th graders at Bulkeley High School's Health Professions Academy.

Through the generosity of the AETNA Foundation, the Great Explorations Program is one of the targeted programs that will receive on-going funding from a \$2 million endowment to the University of Connecticut Health Center Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.

## Jumpstart



Jumpstart Saturday Academy is held at UConn Greater Hartford Campus for twenty Saturdays for 9th and 10th graders. Jumpstart students take language arts, math, and science classes from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Staffed by a dedicated team of teachers and peer counselors, the Jumpstart Program gave high school students the opportunity to continue their studies outside of the regular school day and obtain a stipend. Priority consideration will be given to students who participated in the Great Explorations Program.

## Juniors Doctors Academy

The Juniors Doctors Academy is a Saturday Academy for thirty weeks during the academic year from October through June for 11th and 12th graders. The academic components focus on math, language arts and proven test-taking strategies to increase SAT scores taught by Kaplan Education Center teachers utilizing Kaplan materials. Student partici-

pants take the SAT in June. Criteria for admission include: Minimum of B- average in science, math and language arts; Shown interest in health careers; Currently entering 11th grade;



Submission of a 150 word essay explaining your interest in joining the program; Two letters of recommendation from Science or English teachers or guidance counselors. Please contact Tori

Countryman for more information at 860-679-4522. Priority consideration will be given to students who participated in the Jumpstart Program.

## New Seniors Doctors Academy

The Seniors Doctors Academy is the newest HPPI program that will be implemented in the fall of 2007. The Seniors Doctors Academy is a Saturday Academy held at UConn Greater Hartford Campus, for 12th graders with a pre-medical/pre-dental focus. Students will take courses in pre calculus, inorganic chemistry and writing, for an easy transition to their freshman year in college. Minimum of B average in science, math and language arts; Shown interest in health careers; Currently entering 12th grade; Submission of a 150 word essay explaining your interest in joining the program; Two letters of recommendation from Science or English teachers or guidance counselors. Please contact Tori Countryman for more information at 860-679-4522. Priority consideration will be given to students who completed the Juniors Doctors Academy.

## Mini Medical/Dental School

The annual High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series brought more than 70 high school students from across Connecticut together for eight weeks to explore a variety of medical and dental topics with experts in those fields. Physicians and dentists from UCHC donate their time and expertise as part of the series, sponsored by the Health Career Opportunity Programs. The series is presented to Connecticut high school students through the use of video telecommunications at Bulkeley High School and Metropolitan Learning Center. For more information contact Anna Curtin at 860-679-3484.

## High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program

Can you imagine having the opportunity to be part of a research team and learning laboratory techniques that you have only seen on the latest CSI? Well, 25 very lucky students will have just that opportunity since they have been selected to participate in the 2007 High School Research Apprenticeship Program (HSSRAP) summer program. Ten students will live at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus, five students will commute daily to Central Connecticut State University and 10 students will commute daily to the UConn Health Center for their research project. In order to be eligible for the HSSRAP, students must be 16 years old by the start of the program and be enrolled in a school that has a Career to Work Program.

## Pre-College Enrichment Program

This program gives 10 college freshmen who have been accepted to the UConn Storrs campus the opportunity to strengthen their academic skills while experiencing life on a college campus during the summer. These students earn academic credit as part of this program. Dr. Steven Jarvi is the site coordinator.

## College Enrichment Program

Typically college sophomores, College Enrichment Program (CEP) participants focus on critical math and science skills needed for success at the post-secondary level. A total of 6 students are selected annually to participate in this program which is held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. In addition to academic preparation, students also participate in weekly shadowing of physicians, dentists and staff at the UConn Health Center.

## Bridges To The Baccalaureate Program

The purpose of the Bridges Program is to provide students interested in science and research at Capitol Community College an opportunity to work with Health Center faculty members in UCHC labs. As a 2 + 2 program, the Bridge to the Baccalaureate Program gives students the support and experience to begin their academic career at the community college and facilitate their transition to University of Connecticut in the pursuit of a four-year degree.

Henry Furneaux, PhD., Associate Professor for Vascular Biology Program in Molecular Biology & Bio-Chemistry is the Coordinator for Laboratory Research, and Professor Paul Whitehead, M.Phil. is the Faculty Coordinator for the Bridges Program at Capitol Community College.

## Medical/Dental Preparatory Programs

Housed at Central Connecticut State University, Medical-Dental Preparatory Program students come from across the United States to work on academic skills and foundation. 26

participants are bussed daily to the Health Center for classes, guest lectures and enrichment programs.

## Summer Research Fellowship Program

A 10 week research enrichment experience designed for college juniors and seniors. Ten participants have a personalized research experience studying clinical medicine or dental medicine at UCHC.

## New Community Health Care Seminar Series



The Spring 2007 Community Health Care Seminar Series brought together parents/guardians of our Great Explorations, Jumpstart and Juniors Doctors Academy students with UConn Health Care faculty at UConn Greater Hartford Campus where Dr. David Williams hosted the three sessions. Dr. Thelissa Harris, Community Psychiatrist provided a presentation on Stress Management. Dr. Marja Hurley, Professor of Medicine, provided a presentation on Diabetes Mellitus. Dr. Wilner Sampson, Assistant Professor of Medicine provided a presentation on Diabetic Kidney Disease and Ms. Deborah Downes, Registered Dietitian provided a presentation on Healthy Eating.



## WEAVER HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH CAREERS ACADEMY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

### Teachers Perspective – Heidi Bothamley

I am a mathematics teacher at Weaver High School in Hartford, CT and I have had the pleasure of participating in the UConn Health Center Enrichment Program for three years. This program is open to about twenty sophomores who are in the Health Careers Academy at Weaver. The students visit UConn Health Center three to four times a year to hear and participate in interactive, stimulating and rigorous lectures on various health topics. These topics include sickle cell, dental health, and diabetes. Each lecture is given by an enthusiastic and personable doctor, who knows how to engage all the students. Since the lectures are given in a college setting, the students receive a taste of what their future in medical school will be like.

The students and I have thoroughly enjoyed all of the lectures and hands-on demonstrations that UConn Health Center has offered us. We have learned so much and all of the students are anxious to return and learn more. The program has really opened their eyes to various medical fields and occupations, and to what it takes, both in high school



and then later in medical school, to pursue a career in the health field. This experience has made their future aspirations as doctors, dentists, pediatricians, gynecologists, nutritionists, etc. more real and obtainable. Now they know how to prepare for their future and are one step closer to reaching their goal.

In previous years, the students were able to go through a dental simulation with dental students, where they actually acted as dentists and performed an oral exam. The students loved this activity. They were so excited and interested in this activity that they lost track of time and couldn't believe it was time to go and wanted to stay longer. During other visits, they were able to complete various labs using the latest equipment.

The UConn Health Center Enrichment Program is an outstanding program that has so much to offer the students. It has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to bringing many more groups of Weaver students to UConn Health Center to participate in this amazing and very educational experience.



## 6th Grade Programs



The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs sponsored six 6th grade programs at Kennelly, Naylor and Bellizzi during the Spring 2007, which allows UConn Health Care professors to provide presentations on dental medicine. Dr. Sarita Arteaga, D.M.D., F.A.G.D. is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, Biomaterials and Skeletal Development, where she teaches dental students and treats patients. In addition, Dr. Flavio Uribe, Program Director, Division of Orthodontics, provided several dental medicine presentations to our sixth graders at Kennelly, Naylor and Bellizzi.

## Youth Science Enrichment Program

The Youth Science Enrichment Program (YSEP) provided five presentations to our sixth graders at Kennelly, Naylor and Bellizzi in the Spring of 2007. The YSEP teachers are UConn Health Center medical and dental students brought together through Titilopemi Aina, UConn Health Care medical student and a member of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).



## Administrators Who Supported The Closing Ceremony

The Health Career Opportunity Programs works closely with administrators and coordinators at many high schools in Hartford who were in attendance at the Academic Year Closing Ceremony on June 7, 2007 including:

Miriam Taylor, Principal at Bulkeley High School; Gayle Greene, Assistant Principal at Bulkeley High School, Dr. Sharon Parker at the Health Professions Academy at Bulkeley High School; Dr. Rochelle Jones, Assistant Principal at the Health Careers Academy at Weaver High School; Dr. Elizabeth Colli, Principal at University High School of Science and Engineering; Bob Caruso, Magnet Coach at University High School of Science and Engineering.



Miriam Taylor



Bulkeley students



Dr. Rochelle Jones



Dr. Sharon Parker



From left to right: Judith Harris, Dr. Elizabeth Colli, Dr. Marja Hurley, Tyrell Jones, Kofi Abaaho, Joshua Tagore, John Harris, Bob Caruso.

## **Funding Sources**

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HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JOHN AND VALERIE ROWE HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL FOUNDATION

MAXIMILIAN E. & MARION O. HOFFMAN FOUNDATION

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH – NIGMS

THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER

## **We Welcome Your Comments**

Please feel free to provide Tori Countryman with your suggestions, ideas and comments for the next issue of the hppi pipeline. You can contact her at (860) 679-4522 (office) or 860-716-5037 (cellular) or via e-mail at [countryman@uchc.edu](mailto:countryman@uchc.edu).

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## **If you would like more information about the University of Connecticut Health Center's Pipeline Programs...**

Great Explorations Middle School Program, 6th- 8th grades  
JUMPSTART 6-week Summer and 20-week Academic Programs 9th-10th grades  
Health Careers Discovery Program, 11th-12th grades  
Bulkeley & Weaver High School Health Profession Centers of Excellence, 9th-12th grades  
High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program, 12th grade  
The Junior Doctors Academy, 11th grade  
Mini Medical/Dental Series, 11th-12th grades  
Pre-College Enrichment Program, 13th grade  
College Enrichment Program, 13th-14th grades  
Bridges to the Baccalaureate 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

**See the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs website at:**

**<http://medicine.uhc.edu/departments/hcop>**



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