



Welcome from...

Marja M. Hurley, M.D.

*Professor of Medicine
Associate Dean & Director
Health Career Opportunity Programs
University of Connecticut Health Center*

I would like to begin by welcoming Dr. Granville Wrensford, the new Assistant Dean and Associate Director of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs and the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Academy. Dr. Wrensford is coming to us from Albany, Georgia, where he served as Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs at Albany State University.

We had 218 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2009 Aetna HPPI Summer Programs sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP). Starting in September 2009, 1,150 students are expected to participate in our after school, partner high schools, Saturday Academies, and college programs. Early exposure to the various fields in the biomedical sciences will ultimately increase the diverse pool of students who pursue careers in medicine, dental medicine, and biomedical research.

HCOP is an integral part of the Schools of Medicine and Dental 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 Aetna 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 our entire 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 goes to the legislators of the state of Connecticut who have provided Aetna HPPI with newly awarded state funds to support some of our existing programmatic initiatives as well as the Aetna endowment.

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

Welcome Additions...



Dr. Granville Wrensford

Dr. **Granville Wrensford** joined the department in April 2009 as Assistant Dean and Associate Director. Dr. Wrensford comes from Albany State University in Albany, Georgia where he served as Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs.

Dr. Wrensford received a B.S. in chemistry and physics from the University of the Virgin Islands and in 1990 obtained a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Brown University. He then conducted post doctoral studies at the University of Rhode Island. From 1992 until 1997, he was a faculty member at the University of the Virgin Islands rising to the rank of Associate Professor. He was also director of both the Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program at the University of the Virgin Islands.

From 1998 until 2009, he served at Albany State University, Albany, Georgia in various capacities. He was associate professor of chemistry and became professor of chemistry in 2004. He served as Chairperson of the Department of Natural Sciences from 2000 until 2004 and Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs from 2005 until 2009.

Dr. Wrensford has authored and co authored numerous proposals that were funded by various federal and other agencies in excess of \$10 million. He has extensive experience managing and implementing many programs. During his tenure at Albany State University, Dr. Wrensford was responsible for a number of initiatives. He established the Health Careers Opportunity program and served as director from 1999 until 2009. He was director of the MBRS Program from 2004 until 2009.

- Director, Research Infrastructure for Minority Institutions Program (2004- 2009).
- Director, Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement Program, Albany State University
- Director, Science Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA)
- Chairperson, Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Director of the Extramural Associate Research Development Award of the National Institutes of Health

Dr. Wrensford has served as a proposal reviewer for several federal agencies such as the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Health Resources Services Administration. He holds membership in several organizations such as the American Chemical Society, Georgia Academy of Sciences, Society of Research Administrators International, the National Science Teachers Association, and National Council of University Research Administrators. He is also an at large councilor in the Council of Undergraduate Research.

In 2005 he was an Extramural Associates fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. He was the recipient of a Minority Faculty Mentor Role Model Award from Minority Access Inc in 2005. In 2009, he became a certified research administrator, CRA.

Dr. Wrensford's duties include overseeing the many outreach programs of the department.

Summer 2009 Aetna HPPI Academy Staff (Greater Hartford Campus)



Mr. Keith Carter,
M.H.R., Community
Based Educational
Specialist and Aetna HPPI
Academy Program
Coordinator.



Ms. Marlyn Davila,
B.A., Lead Peer Counselor.



Mr. Christopher Vazquez,
B.S., Jumpstart ninth and
tenth grade Peer Counselor.
(See page six for additional
information).



Ms. Shaneca Napier
Junior and Senior
Doctors Academy
Peer Counselor.

*Dr. Wrensford and his staff would like to thank Dr. Williams
and his staff at the University of Connecticut,
Greater Hartford Campus.*

Congratulations to...



Dr. Leigh Cabral was born in Trinidad, where her family still resides. She completed high school in Trinidad. Dr. Cabral attended Minnesota College, St. Benedict and St. Johns University, where she obtained an undergraduate degree in Biology. Dr. Cabral worked in Minnesota for a year then she was accepted to the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

Leigh Cabral, D.M.D.
Aetna HPPI Mentor,
Dentist, Dental Student,
Mentor

As a student in high school, Dr. Cabral knew she was interested in medicine as a career. During her first year in college, she felt that

becoming a medical doctor was too much for her to deal with emotionally. Her friend and her grandfather being hospitalized brought on this emotional change. As a result, Dr. Cabral began shadowing several dentists. This encouraged her to pursue a career in dentistry.

Even though the process was challenging, and she made many sacrifices, Dr. Cabral graduated May 2009 from the UConn School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Cabral began her General Practice Residency at Hartford Hospital starting in July 2009.



Dr. Kristen Glasgow is originally from Westchester, New York. In 2000, she began her studies at Wesleyan University, graduating in 2004 with a Bachelor in Arts, majoring in biology. Before attending the UConn School of Medicine, Dr. Glasgow took a year to conduct research at the Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. Her work was published in the science journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Kristen Glasgow, M.D.
Medical Doctor, Medical
Student, Mentor

Dr. Glasgow always knew she wanted to be a doctor. She has always loved science and possessed a curiosity to understand how things work.

Growing up, she remembers exploring new worlds through chemistry and microscope kits while other children played with their dolls.

Dr. Glasgow originally began her quest for a career in health wanting to be a veterinarian. At a young age, however, a car unfortunately dragged Dr. Glasgow's family dog. While in the animal hospital, her inability to console her pet led her to realize that she wanted to be able to communicate more with her patients. Dr. Glasgow's dog made a full recovery, but the experience changed her life by allowing her to appreciate the value of human communication and comfort.

Through college, Dr. Glasgow was able to participate in pre-health programs through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) at the UConn School of Medicine. When it came time to choose her future place of study, she remembered how well the students at UConn worked together and supported each other through the difficult process of obtaining a medical degree. She also felt that UConn afforded her the opportunity to pursue outside interests such as painting murals, dancing at the school's yearly cultural show, or teaching health and science.

Dr. Glasgow graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2009. Dr. Glasgow began her residency in general surgery at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven in July 2009. As a surgical resident, she will be working under the guidance of her attending physicians for the next five years, training to one day become an attending herself.

Dr. Glasgow has been a mentor for Aetna's HPPI Great Explorations middle school summer program and the Juniors Doctors Academy Saturday program for the HCOP at UConn Health Center for the last four years.



Ms. Shawnet Jones, B.S.
Aetna HPPI Mentor,
First HPPI Rowe Scholar
Accepted to UConn
Medical School

Ms. Shawnet Jones was born in Jamaica and immigrated to United States when she was three years old. She received a full scholarship to attend Watkinson High School in Hartford, Connecticut.

Ms. Jones received a full scholarship to attend the University of Connecticut (including the Day of Pride Scholarship, Rowe Scholarship, Mass Mutual Scholarship, and a Comcast Scholarship). Accepted to the University of Connecticut through

the combined degree program (BS/MD), Ms. Jones was able to receive advisement from the UConn School of Medicine while working on her undergraduate degree. Ms. Jones graduated from the University of Connecticut on May 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Neurobiology.

Ms. Jones was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society. She was also honored as a New England Scholar for the 2008-2009 academic years.

Ms. Jones participated in several college enrichment programs sponsored by the UConn Health Center Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, including participating in College Enrichment Program, Summer Research Fellowship Program, and the Medical and Dental Preparatory Program (Track 1 & Track 2).



Mr. Christopher Vazquez, B.S.
Formerly a Jumpstart
Student, Now UConn
Alumni

Mr. Christopher Vazquez graduated from Bulkeley High School in June 2004. During his four years of high school, Mr. Vazquez was actively involved in varsity sports, such as football, baseball (captain), and swimming. He was also part of the Aetna HPPI Health Professions Academy at Bulkeley High School. As a high school senior, Mr. Vazquez conscientiously searched for scholarships and received several including, the Hartford Foundation Scholarship, the Capitol Scholarship, and the Mass Mutual Scholarship.

Mr. Vazquez was accepted to the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus, which he attended for his first two years of college, transferring to the Storrs Campus for his remaining two years. As a college freshman, Mr. Vazquez worked with the Jumpstart Program sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative at the University of Connecticut Health Center. He participated in the Aetna HPPI during his high school years, continuing his dedication to the Aetna Health Profession Partnership Initiative programs for the past five years. Mr. Vazquez graduated from the University of Connecticut May 2009 majoring in the Allied Health Sciences. It has always been a dream of his to become a doctor, so he plans to apply to the Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate program at the University of Connecticut



Oluwadamilola Oni-Orisan
Former Aetna HPPI
Academy Student
Now a 2009 Yale
Freshman

Ms. Oluwadamilola Oni-Orisan is better known among her peers as Dami. As a high school senior, Ms. Oni-Orisan attended both the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science (GHAMAS) and New Britain High School (NBHS). She spent the first half of the school day at NBHS and the second half at GHAMAS, where she took advanced math and science courses. Despite having a hectic schedule, she enjoyed her course work.

Ms. Oni-Orisan participated in many extracurricular activities, including Aetna HPPI Academy student, Youth & Government Senator,

playing on several NBHS sports teams, Co-Editor for the GHAMAS yearbook, and the Algal Biodiesel Alternative Fuel Program (a student organization charged with searching for a way to grow algae and convert it to diesel fuel). Biodiesel is a student organization in search of a way to grow algae and convert it to diesel oil. In addition, she served as the Research/Communications Liaison for the Growing Algae Group, performing experiments on different algae samples, recording and researching information, and sharing the results with the other groups involved in the project. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading, photography, running, playing soccer and basketball, volunteering, and listening to different genres of music.

Last summer, Ms. Oni-Orisan was invited to join a team of professors and students from the University of Connecticut's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department on a research trip to South Africa. Each student worked on projects in ecology and botany as they explored one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. Her main project was studying the patterns that flowers display in ultraviolet light and the variation in stomata densities in the leaves of the *Cussonia* tree.

Ms. Oni-Orisan graduated valedictorian of New Britain High School in June of 2009. She was accepted to the University of Connecticut Combined Program in Medicine, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Johns Hopkins Universities. Ms. Oni-Orisan chose to attend Yale University as a pre-med student majoring in neurobiology. Her goal is to become a pediatric neurosurgeon.



Gledis Progonati
Former Aetna HPPI
Academy Student
Now a 2009 UConn
Freshman

Mr. Gledis Progonati graduated valedictorian from Bulkeley High School on June 2009. Since middle school, Mr. Progonati has participated in several programs sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna HPPI Academy. Attending the University of Connecticut in the fall 2009, he will also take part of the Honors Program. Mr. Progonati enjoys playing soccer hiking, swimming and reading science fiction.

Congratulations Senior Doctors Academy Graduates 2008-2009 Academic Year

- Racquel Bowen
- Rasheed Cook
- Ashley Delgado
- Amria Fariduddin
- Amal Gulaid
- Letitia Lewis
- Rhyshia Manga
- Melissa Parks
- Lynval Scott
- Dale Brightly
- Wendy Delawrence
- Christina Duphrezin
- Chastity Flores
- Shi-mane Holmes
- Lolita Lewis
- Jonathan McKenna
- Paige Reid

Congratulations to Our Mentors

University of Connecticut Health Center Medical and Dental School 2009 Graduates



Dr. Ashkan Fahandejsaadi, Dr. Tinashe Chapfika,
Dr. Joe Parets, Dr. Leigh Cabral, Dr. Hisham Rifaey,
Dr. An Le, Dr. Adelina Fontes.

(Not present in the photo is Dr. Kristen Glasgow.)

2009 Scholarship Recipients John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship



Gledis Progonati and Nour
Farooq.

The John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund provides scholarships for students interested in medical or dental fields accepted to the Honors program at the University of Connecticut. During the Eighth Annual Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony held on June 4, 2009, John and Valerie Rowe scholarships were

also awarded to Aetna HPPI students accepted into the University of Connecticut. This year's recipients were Gledis Progonati, Daniel Camacho, and Leehna Ware.

Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs Scholarship Fund



Dr. Boake Plessey

In honor of **Dr. Boake Plessey's** contributions, the UConn Health Center 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 to Nour Farooq and Cecilia Ortega on June 4, 2009 at the Eighth Annual Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony.

Jennifer Smith Fund Medical Student Mentoring Recognition Award



Dr. Kristen Glasgow

The Jennifer Smith Scholarship Fund was established by Ms. Jennifer 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, M.D.**, who graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2009.

To contribute to these funds, or for more information about philanthropy to support the Health Career Opportunity Programs at the UConn Health Center, please call Dina Plapler, vice president for development, at 860-679-1122.

Aetna Health Profession Partnership Academy 2009-2010 Class Presidents



Syreeta Crawford
Student Body & Senior
Class President



Aundre Barnaby
Senior Class Co-
President



Shamira Chappell
Junior Class President



Axie Farquarson
Sophomore Class
President



Inelyz Martinez
Freshman Class President

2009 Bridge Conference

The 2009 Annual Bridge to the Future Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Over 100 high school and college students from diverse backgrounds were brought together with University of Connecticut Health Center faculty, staff, medical, dental and graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness on health and biomedical science careers and the admissions process for medical, dental, and graduate schools. The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, the University of Connecticut Chapter of the Student National Medical Association, Student National Dental Association and the Hispanic Student Dental Association Chapters sponsored the 2009 Annual Bridge to the Future Mentoring Conference. The Jack and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund supported the conference. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Jonathan Nunez, a University of Connecticut Health Center School of Medicine alumnus.

Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on Dentistry by Dr. Sarita Arteaga, DNA discovery by Dr. Henry Furneaux and the MD/PhD program by Dr. Barbara Kream. Dr. Kathy Martin-Troy, the Aetna Health Profession Partnership Initiative Site Coordinator at Central Connecticut State University, challenged the students on their knowledge of math and science. Ms. LaShawn Springer, Assistant Dean of Admission at Wesleyan University, provided valuable information about admissions and financial aid.

College students who participated in enrichment seminars learned about the admissions process for Graduate, medical and dental programs offered at the University Connecticut Health Center School of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Dr. Keat Sanford, Assistant Dean of Admissions at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Dr. Damian Findlay, alumnus of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, placed 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 University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. The medical and dental 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 dialog for all participants.

Bridge Mentoring Conference



Academic Year Closing Ceremony

Supporters Of The Eighth Annual Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony



Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., Vice President for Health Affairs, Dean of the School of Medicine, Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Chair in Academic Medicine, Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chemical, Materials and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Connecticut, brought greetings and encouraged the students to take advantage of the opportunity provided by these programs to further their education.



On Thursday, June 4, 2009 **Sharon Dalton,** the Vice President of the Aetna Foundation, was the keynote speaker at the Eighth Annual Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony.



Monty R. MacNeil, D.D.S., M.D. Sc., Dean of the University of Connecticut Health Center School of Dental Medicine, brought greetings and welcoming remarks to the students.



Miriam Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Support Services, represented the Hartford Public School Superintendent's Office.



Gayle Green, M.S., Principal at Bulkeley High School, acknowledged students.



In the Spotlight...

Susan Matthews
University High School Science & Engineering Science Teacher

Most educators agree that it is an obligation to prepare students, not only for success in high school but also to meet college expectations and, ultimately, the demands of the workforce. To do this, we must align our curricula with these standards and provide rich options for students, personalized learning, opportunities for collaboration, technical skills and a work-based learning component. As imperative as these goals are, we recognize that we cannot accomplish them alone. Schools need help in bridging the gap between what we know must happen and what, indeed, does happen. The programs at the University of Connecticut Health Center help to link expectations with reality for both teachers and students. Many students have benefited from the academic enrichment and career exploration programs offered. The Aetna Health Profession Partnership Initiative Academy has become an invaluable resource, exposing students to health careers and supplementing our school's PSAT and SAT preparation programs, while effectively engaging students in the scientific method at a more advanced level. The High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program has provided the opportunity to conduct cutting edge research. As a result, students have gained confidence, maturity and patience.

The Mini Medical Program lectures are presented in an easy to understand style, foster interest in the health sciences and a clear understanding of the health professions. The professors are accessible and students have the opportunity to speak with the medical faculty after each lecture. This program's magic affects even the most "difficult" student. The best students excel as well. Earlier this year, during a discussion of membrane receptors, a student regaled with a complete description of how drugs work and the pharmacology behind drug interactions. When asked how she knew so much, "We learned it at the Mini Medical School." Need I say more?

Enrichment Programs...

Great Explorations



The Great Explorations program is an after-school program designed to provide extra curriculum activities in math, science, and reading to current 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle school students. Students participating in the Great Exploration program are currently enrolled in one of three

Hartford Public Middle Schools, Bellizzi, Kennelly and Naylor.

Great Exploration offers a four-week summer academic enrichment program for approximately 30 rising 7th and 8th grade participants. The program is held at the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science. Students receive instruction in math, science, and language arts.

The Great Exploration Program targets any racially ethnic group, i.e. African American, Hispanic, Latino, Native American, Native Hawaiian, and/or others, from disadvantaged backgrounds meeting eligibility criteria.

Aetna HPPI Academy



The Aetna Health Profession Partnership Initiative Academy (Aetna HPPI Academy) is designed to provide educational opportunities which may not be otherwise 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 under-represented in healthcare. Students participating in the Aetna HPPI Academy are generally recruited from Hartford area schools and have chosen to pursue careers in the health professions. Aetna HPPI Academy students aspire to become doctors, dentists, biomedical research scientists, pharmacists, and/or nurses.

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



High School Mini Medical/Dental School

The High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series is a two-hour 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 of the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series are eleventh and twelfth grade students who are 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. For more information contact Anna Curtin at 860-679-3484.

Project Outreach



May 2009 Rafael Pacheco, M.D. joined other medical and dental students to provide activities to increase awareness of the health professions for high school students at Bulkeley High School.

College Science Partnership

More than 100 students from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy participated in the 2008-2009 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin-Troy (Molecular Biological Sciences Department at Central Connecticut State University) students participated in 5 biology and chemistry labs at Central Connecticut State University.

Epidemiology



The Epidemiology Program, a series of five programs, was held for seniors from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) to introduce basic concepts and terminology

used in the study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wettstone and Dr. Richard Stevens, the program provided an introduction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Twelve 11th and 12th graders attended the University Connecticut Health Center on two occasions and Dr. Stevens and Dr. Richards visited SMSA on three occasions.

High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program(HSSRAP)



Fourteen students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2009 HSSRAP Summer Program. As part

of the 2009 program, eight students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State University and six students commuted daily to UConn Health Center for their research projects. In order to be eligible for HSSRAP, students must be 16 years of age by the start of the program and be enrolled in a school that has a Career to Work Program.

Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program

The Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program currently has pre-freshman students enrolled at the University Connecticut Storrs Campus. The students earn an opportunity to participate in math and science courses for academic credit, while experiencing life on a college campus during the summer. The students also participate in enrichment activities at the University of Connecticut Health Center to learn about biomedical research as well as the medical and dental professions.

College Enrichment Program

The College Enrichment Program is designed for college sophomores. The program's curriculum focus 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 University of Connecticut Health Center.

Medical/Dental Preparatory Programs



Medical-Dental Preparatory Program students are selected from various universities throughout the country to work on academic skills and

foundation as well as on preparation for the MCAT or DAT examination. A total of 34 participants are bussed daily to the University of Connecticut Health Center for classes, guest lectures and enrichment programs.

Summer Research Fellowship Program



The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a ten-week research enrichment experience designed for college sophomores, juniors

and seniors, 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). 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 of work on a research project and 10 hours per week of clinical experience.

Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program



The Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a six-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores,

juniors, seniors. 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 approach to cultural definitions, public health issues, and discussions of specific techniques for working with diverse populations in community settings.

Community Health Care Seminar Series

The Spring 2009 Community Health Care Seminar Series was designed for parents/guardians of scholars enrolled in the Aetna Health Profession Partnership Initiative Academy. Guest speakers come from the University of Connecticut Health Center and the University of Connecticut. The University of Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus hosts the event. This year's event featured Dr. Marja Hurley, Dr. Beatriz Tendler, Dr. Fabio Aglieco, Dr. Michelle Cloutier, Dr. Carrie Graham, and Dr. Geraldine Pearson. The presentations topics included diabetes, asthma, nutrition, and stress management.

Health Professions Lecture Series for College Students

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative at the UConn Health Center offered a series of lectures from different health care providers at the University Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus and the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus. The lecture series are geared towards students with an interest in health professions. For more information please contact Mr. Keith Carter at (860) 679-8031.

Alumni Speakers for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Bridge Mentoring Program Conference and Closing Ceremonies

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Conference



On April 25, 2009 the Annual Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Conference was held for over 100 high school and college students at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The Keynote Speaker for the Conference was **Jonathan Nunez, M.D.**, a Medicine-Primary Care Resident at Yale New Haven Hospital/Waterbury Hospital. Dr. Nunez participated in the Pre College Enrichment Program at the University of Connecticut during the summer of 1999, the Clinical College Enrichment Program at the University of Connecticut Health Center in the summer of 2000, the Summer Research Fellowship Program in the summer of 2002, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Tracks One and Two during the summers of 2003 and 2004. Dr. Nunez graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 2008.

Summer 2009 Closing Ceremonies



On July 24, 2009 closing ceremonies were held in Keller Auditorium for forty-six participants from the College Enrichment Program, Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, and the Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program. Earlier in the morning, poster presentations from the participants of the Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program showing the outcome of their research experience were held in the Academic Lobby. **Peter Gonzalez, M.D.**, a Clinical Educator at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and physician at Healthcare Associates, Inc. was the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Gonzalez participated in the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program during the summer of 1989, and graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 1994.



On July 31, 2009 closing ceremonies were held in Keller Auditorium for one hundred thirty-three participants from the JumpStart Program, Juniors Doctors Academy, Seniors Doctors Academy, High School Student Research Apprentice Program, Pre College Enrichment Program, and the Summer Research Fellowship Program. During the morning session, the participants of the High School Student Research Apprentice Program from the University of Connecticut Health Center and Central Connecticut State University gave oral and poster presentations on the outcome of their research experience at their research symposium for faculty and invited guests. On July 30th, the participants of the Summer Research Fellowship Program presented their posters in a session for faculty and staff in the Academic Lobby. **Belachew Tessema, M.D.**, a physician with Pro Health Physicians, Connecticut Sinus Institute at Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center was the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Tessema graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 2003.

The July 24th and July 31st Closing Ceremonies marked the culmination of a six-week and ten-week summer enrichment experience for students from the ninth-grade level to students who matriculated at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine Class of 2013. During these ceremonies, program participants were awarded certificates, and brief statements were made by students and coordinators for invited faculty, preceptors, friends and family members.



Dates to Remember

April 10, 2010

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program

May 13, 2010

Aetna HPPI Academy Closing Ceremony

Application Deadlines

February 2010

Great Explorations Program
Aetna HPPI Academy
High School Student Research Apprentice Program
High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program
Medical/Dental Preparatory Program
Summer Research Fellowship Program
Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

April 2010

Pre-College Enrichment Program
College Enrichment Program

Acknowledgement: Funding Sources

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CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATIVE FUND
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONNCAP GRANT
JOHN AND VALERIE ROWE HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARS PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER

We Welcome Your Comments

Please feel free to provide Keith A. Carter with your suggestions, ideas and comments for the next issue of the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pipeline. You can contact him at (860) 679-8031 or (860) 679-4545.



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

- ◇ Great Explorations Middle School Program, 6th- 8th grades
- ◇ Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Academy 6-week Summer and 20-week Academic Programs, 9th-12th grades
- ◇ Bulkeley High School, 9th-12th grades
- ◇ Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, 9th-12th grades
- ◇ High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program, 11th and 12th grades
- ◇ High School Mini Medical/Dental Series, 11th-12th grades
- ◇ Pre-College Enrichment Program, 13th grade
- ◇ College Enrichment Program, 13th-14th grades
- ◇ Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, 13th grade through recent graduates
- ◇ Summer Research Fellowship Program, 14th grade through recent graduates
- ◇ Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, 13th grade through recent graduates
- ◇ 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.uchc.edu/prospective/enrichment/hcop/index.html>



University of Connecticut
Health Center

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