

Teens to get a peek into the doctor's life

Local high school students will get an inside look at what life is like as a physician, thanks to a new after-school program organized by SIU School of Medicine and the Springfield Public Schools (SPS).

The Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program, or P4, will start at the medical school in November. Fifteen high school freshmen will be selected this fall through an admission process that begins in late August. Twelve will be selected from Springfield Public Schools and three from private/parochial schools that live within the SPS boundaries.

Students will participate in activities that may include reviewing case studies, job shadowing, first-aid training (e.g., CPR), laboratory experiences, research projects, mentoring by medical students/SIU staff, workshops (e.g., college

application), leadership training, community health fairs and hospital tours.

"We hope this pilot program will develop into a permanent partnership with the Springfield schools and eventually some of the P4 'graduates' will return to earn their medical degrees at SIU," said SIU Dean and Provost **J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.** "This effort matches well with part of our mission, which is to be of service to the communities where we work and live."

Additional P4 sessions are set for February and June 2010. A Saturday program will also provide academic support and leadership training as well as sessions in math, science, written/oral communication, test-taking and verbal reasoning.

"We are particularly interested in providing this opportunity to youth with potential who might not otherwise get the

Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program (P4)

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guidance they need to pursue a medical career," said Walter Milton, Jr., Ed.D., superintendent of Springfield Public Schools. "P4 is a shining example of a collective effort that will produce a body of youth who are ready to compete in the global medical environment."

Materials for prospective students will be posted after August 24 at www.siumed.edu and www.springfield.k12.il.us.

MEDICAL STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

For a fifth year, SIU medical students provided shoes for students at Enos Elementary School in Springfield, part of a national program called "Shoes That Fit." Enos has been SIU's adopted school in Springfield School District 186's business partner program since 1985.

The medical students raised funds for the shoes and purchased them last December. The Springfield Wal-Mart on Dirksen Parkway provided the shoes at a reduced cost and donated socks for each student receiving a pair of shoes.

They distributed the footwear to 80 Enos students in April.

This spring, medical students also organized the 15th annual AMA 5K Run at Washington Park in Springfield. Sponsored by SIU's student chapter of the American Medical Association in con-



Rachel Durham, M.D., '09, helps a student with his new shoes.

junction with the Springfield Running Club, the run raised \$2,000, which will be donated to M.E.R.C.Y. Communities in Springfield.

Student receives research fellowship

Deena Chihade, a second-year medical student from Forsyth, has been awarded the 2009 Carolyn L. Kuckein



Chihade

Student Research Fellowship. She is one of 40 medical students receiving the national award. This is the 13th Alpha Omega Alpha fellowship awarded to a SIU medical student.

The \$5,000 fellowship will support Chihade's cancer research project, which will explore how paclitaxel, a drug used in cancer treatment, may decrease the benefits of toxic cell therapy and increase the chances of tumor cells to escape from chemotherapy.

Chihade is doing her research under the supervision of **Sophia Ran, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology at SIU and a member of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU.

Top 10: Family Medicine awarded national honor

SIU's Department of Family and Community Medicine has received a "Top Ten Award" from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) as one of the top ten medical schools in the nation for producing family physicians.

The award, given at the annual Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's annual conference in May, recognizes SIU's efforts to foster student interest in family medicine. Using a three-year average (2006-08), 16.3 percent of SIU's graduating students have entered accredited family medicine residency programs, the ninth highest percentage in the country.

"This award recognizes our students who choose family medicine for their life's work as well as the SIU faculty who train them," said **J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.**, SIU's dean and provost.

The family and community medicine specialty emphasizes comprehensive care to individuals and families, with emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention, and care of the acutely and chronically ill.

"Our graduates become physicians in various medical specialties, but these results signal that there will continue to be dedicated SIU family medicine alumni practicing in Illinois."

Amber Barnhart, M.D., associate professor of family and community medicine and pre-doctoral education director, and **Harald Lausen, D.O.**, assistant professor of family and community medicine and clerkship director, oversee SIU's family medicine training, which occurs in all four years of medical school.

In their third year, SIU medical students work with practicing family physicians in central and southern Illinois. The students choose from more than 160 family practice physicians in Illinois for this preceptorship experience.

Good work!

This spring, the School of Medicine honored two civil service employees from Springfield and a team in the Department of Surgery for exemplary work.

Jennifer Gardner, a computer support specialist in internal medicine, was named the Civil Service Employee of the Year. Her nominators said, "She is always willing to help in any area she can. She works hard, is knowledgeable, and helps train new people in the clinics." Gardner joined the SIU staff in 2000. She was also named the outstanding civil service teaching support winner this year by the University.

Cindy Wilham, health care administrator in internal medicine, has been named the Civil Service Supervisor of the Year. A nurse since 1974, she joined the SIU staff in 1989. Her nominators said, "She is always positive, caring, fair and an excellent example for staff. She is committed to high quality patient care above all else."

This year's Group Quality Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in delivering service or improving health outcomes or work processes was awarded to the Clinic Core Committee in the surgery department. The group has worked on projects to improve patient care, patient experiences, quality education and role modeling for students, residents and staff. Members include **Sandy Aper, Lynne Hailey, Susan Helm, Penny Lorenzini, Connie Pillsbury, Sara Schumacher, Lois Strom, Jean Taylor, Dr. Robert McClafferty** and **Janet Kararo**, all faculty and staff in the surgery department.

Eleven faculty members promoted

Academic promotions have been awarded to eleven faculty members at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. The promotions were approved this spring by the SIU Board of Trustees. All faculty listed are in Springfield unless noted.

Janet R. Albers, M.D. from associate professor to professor of family and community medicine; **Lydia A. Arbogast, Ph.D.**, from associate professor to professor of physiology in Carbondale; **Joseph Q. Henkle, M.D.** from associate professor to professor of pulmonary medicine; **Gary M. Rull, M.D.** from assistant to associate professor of internal medicine; and **Bradley F. Schwartz, M.D.** from associate professor to professor of urology.

Six faculty members have been promoted with tenure: **Brent M. Bany, Ph.D.**, from assistant to associate professor of physiology in Carbondale; **Sukesh R. Bhaumik, Ph.D.**, from assistant to associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in Carbondale; **James P. Malone, M.D.** from assistant to associate professor of otolaryngology head and neck surgery; **Daotai Nie, Ph.D.**, from assistant to associate professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology; **Regina J. Paul, Ph.D.**, from assistant to associate professor of medical education in Carbondale; and **Sophia Ran, Ph.D.**, from assistant to associate professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology.

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