

GSA-Student Diversity Affairs Representatives,

Please see the important announcements and opportunities below for Friday, November 15, 2013:

NEW! INSIDE THE AAMC

- iCollaborative Call for Submissions
- Connect with Student Diversity Affairs Representatives through AAMC's Directory of Diversity Affairs Representatives
- Save the Dates! GDI/GSA/OSR National Spring Meeting
- New Careers in Medicine Web Resource "Characteristics of Entering Residents"
- Aspiring Docs Diaries Seeks Students with Inspiring Stories
- Aspiring Docs and FIRST Release FREE e-Guide for Pre-Med Students
- Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) Application Open Now
- Unconscious Bias Learning Lab for the Health Professions
- 25th Anniversary of the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)
- Medloans® Organizer and Calculator Now Customized For Dental Students
- AAMC sponsors Joining Forces Wellness Week November 11-15, 2013

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS

- Lilly/Roswell Park Clinical Research Workshop for Minority Physicians
- Webinar: Addressing the Unique Needs of Undocumented Students: How Recent Policy Changes Affect College Access

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS

- December Training Courses at Howard University: Rehabilitative and Regenerative Medicine for Minority Health and Health Disparities and Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer
- NIH Loan Repayment Program Pursue Your Financial Freedom
- RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows Releases Call for Applications
- Save the Date! 2014 NAAHP National Meeting

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

- CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship
- Scholarship Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX)
- Medical Student Rotation for Underrepresented Populations: Two Funding Opportunities for Medical Students and Residents from Underrepresented Populations
- Resident Travel Award for Underrepresented Populations Application Opens: October 17, 2013;
 Completed Application Due: December 17, 2013
- The American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research Announce Student Research Program

- Research Opportunity at NIH for Science Students: Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO)
- American Heart Association Go Red For Women Health Care Scholarship
- American Society of Hematology Research Experience for Medical Students: Minority Medical Student Award Program (MMSAP)
- HHMI Medical Research Fellows Program Application Cycle Opens
- Fellowship Opportunity: The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy
- Baylor College of Medicine Announces 11th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards

ARTICLES

- Johns Hopkins' Pioneering Cardiac Surgeon Reflects on Lifetime of Service
- Neuroscientist Took Unlikely Path to Top
- Texas University's Race Admissions Policy Is Debated Before a Federal Court
- How Mobile Apps Could Transform Rural Healthcare
- Is There More Than One Path to Medical School?
- Medical School Applicants, Enrollment Reach All-Time Highs

INSIDE THE AAMC

iCollaborative Call for Submissions

MedEdPORTAL's *iCollaborative* is pleased to announce a partnership with the Group on Student Affairs (GSA) and Careers in Medicine (CiM) to establish and promote a collection of practical medical school administrative tools that support Admissions, Diversity Affairs, and Student Affairs efforts. Resources of interest include guidelines/policy definitions, forms and templates for assessment, and advising tools.

AAMC's Directory of Diversity Affairs Representatives

If you need to locate a Student Diversity Affairs Representative click here. All member contact information is accessible by using your AAMC account and password. Please be aware, we provide member contact for networking and supporting collaborations among members. Please do not use the contact to solicit products, services, or surveys. It is very important to keep our member's information confidential. Anyone wanting access to our member's information must contact our Member Services unit at memberservice@aamc.org. Note that there is a price.

Save the Dates! GDI/GSA/OSR National Spring Meeting April 26 - 29, 2014

Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel, San Diego, CA

The Call for Concurrent Session Presentations and Posters will open in November! We hope you consider submitting!

Registration and program materials will be available in early January 2014 at www.aamc.org/meetings.

This meeting will feature an AAMC Medical School Career Fair, a pre-conference GSA Certificate Program Workshop, and a community give back activity.

Stay tuned for more details!

New Careers in Medicine Web Resource

A new resource on the AAMC Careers in Medicine Web site is designed to help students determine their competitiveness in a specialty during the residency application process. "Characteristics of Entering Residents" provides information on board scores, research, volunteer and work experiences, and other relevant qualifications of first-year residents of the 2012–2013 academic year. Sixteen specialties are

currently included, and more specialties and fellowships will be added over time.

Aspiring Docs Diaries Seeks Students with Inspiring Stories

Last year, Aspiring Docs launched a popular new blog called *Aspiring Docs Diaries* (www.aspiringdocsdiaries.org), which was written by a first year medical student. Our endeavor was to give medical school aspirants an inside look at what it's like to be a medical student. This year, we're expanding the *Diaries* to include several bloggers across all four years of medical school. While we have a few students who have expressed interest, we'd like to feature more voices from our member medical schools to represent a wider perspective of experiences, pathways, and inspiration. If you know students who have inspiring stories and would be interested in participating, please tell them about this opportunity. We're hoping to find students who are able to blog once or twice a month but we are flexible and can work with their schedules. Please have interested students contact us at aspiringdocs@aamc.org.

Aspiring Docs and FIRST Release FREE e-Guide for Pre-Med Students

A new online guide is available for pre-med students who are interested in pursuing careers in medicine. *Quick Answers to Common Questions About Getting Into Medical School* is packed with answers to nearly 40 questions about preparing for medical school, applying, testing, financing, and what it's like to be in medical school. Also contained within the six chapters are links to additional resources for students who are pursuing their medical education. The e-Guide is a compilation of fact sheets from AAMC's FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) for Medical Education and Aspiring Docs initiatives.

SAVE THE DATE: Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) Application Opens November 1. Details are available here.

Unconscious Bias Learning Lab for the Health Professions

Are you curious about the <u>Unconscious Bias Learning Lab for the Health Professions</u>, but are unsure about who should come, what the program will be like, and what experience you need to participate? <u>Click here to listen to a 30 minute Q&A call.</u>

Howard Ross of Cook Ross, Inc. and workshop leader addresses exactly what you can expect during the lab and what takeaways you will receive. Cook Ross is one of the nation's leading diversity training consultants and the AAMC has partnered with them to offer this unique training program.

25th Anniversary of the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)

In 2014, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Summer Medical and Dental Education National Program Office (NPO) will celebrate a special milestone: the 25th Anniversary of the SMDEP and its previous iterations-MMEP and SMEP.

Several of our alumni, particularly those that participated in the early iterations of the program (MMEP and SMEP) have served on various leadership positions in your organizations and participated at your conferences and events.

We need your assistance to connect and engage them to share their stories. We are looking for individuals who:

- have compelling personal stories,
- made significant contributions to their profession and their communities or
- can speak to impact of the program on their career and lives.

Please use the <u>Share your story</u> feature on the SMDEP website to help us identify your leadership and members who participated in the program or send their contact information to Rennee Hubb at rhubb@aamc.org

Information about 25th Anniversary campaign activities are forthcoming.

Medloans® Organizer and Calculator Now Customized For Dental Students

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is pleased to announce, that in partnership with ADEA (American Dental Education Association), we've created the Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator (DLOC). DLOC is an education debt management tool designed to promote responsible borrowing and loan repayment. The new tool helps dental students and graduates organize and track their student loans, view loan repayment options, and create individual repayment scenarios based on their specific career plans. For more information on DLOC, click here.

AAMC sponsors Joining Forces Wellness Week 2013

As part of the <u>Joining Forces initiative</u> that is sponsored by the White House, the AAMC again is sponsoring <u>Joining Forces Wellness Week (JFWW)</u>. The aim of JFWW is to continue raising awareness in the academic medicine community about the nuanced health and wellness needs of veterans, service members and their families. This contributes to our mission to improve the health of all.

The cornerstone event is the JFWW webinar series. This series will be held **November 11-15, 2013** from 12-1 p.m. EST each day with topics appropriate for medical students, residents, and physicians. Registration will open around October 1, and we will be sending an invitation to the designated contact for each school with additional details about the sessions.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS

Lilly/Roswell Park Clinical Research Workshop for Minority Physicians

Lilly is a leader in boosting enrollment of diverse populations in clinical trials and making trials more accessible to minority communities. In partnership with The Center for Drug Development and Clinical Trials at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Lilly is training minority physicians to conduct clinical trials - the first program of its kind in the industry. For more information, click <a href="https://example.com/here-park-roswell-park-roswe

Webinar: Addressing the Unique Needs of Undocumented Students: How Recent Policy Changes Affect College Access Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 3:00-4:30pm EST

Participants will:

- Learn how state and federal education and immigration policies impact college access for undocumented students in their state and on their campus
- Review the DACA application and learn how best to assist students with its completion
- Discover ways to help undocumented students during the college application and admission process
- Address the unique needs of undocumented college-goers
- Be able to train other professionals on their campus and/or in their community to support undocumented immigrant students
- Begin to develop a network of undocumented student allies and support on their campus and in their community

Who should attend?

- 2-year & 4-year institutions
- Directors of Diversity
- Admissions Directors & Staff
- Faculty
- Directors of Minority Recruitment
- Outreach & Recruitment Staff
- College & Financial Aid Advisors

- Enrollment Management Administrators & Staff
- College Registrars
- Marketing & Communications Professionals
- Student Services/Affairs Administrators & Staff
- Financial Aid Directors & Staff

This webinar will be presented live on both dates listed above. Institutions can participate on one date or both at no additional fee! Registration details are available here.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS

Rehabilitative and Regenerative Medicine for Minority Health and Health Disparities December 3-7, 2013

Rehabilitative and Regenerative Medicine for Minority Health and Health Disparities (REMEDY), a FRONTIERS Advanced Training Course, trains and mentors promising physician-scientists and other researchers from predominately underrepresented communities in sophisticated technologies in rehabilitation and regenerative research. The purpose of this NICHD Continuing Education Training Program is to provide comprehensive and sophisticated training and state-of-the-art methods on bioengineering, cellular, molecular and genetic approaches for advancing the Frontiers in Rehabilitative and Regenerative Medicine for rectifying Minority Health and Health Disparities. REMEDY offers dynamic training courses that provide a fresh series of daily lecturers on emerging concepts, followed by extended discussion, laboratory research, technologically intense workshops and informal seminars. The primary aim is to educate and update rehabilitation and regeneration researchers on the implications of stem cells and tissue engineering for mechanistic discoveries and on designing improved strategies for rehabilitation discoveries, especially in the CNS and skeletal-muscular systems.

<u>Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer</u> December 8-13, 2013

Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer (FriSC2) has been created for promising physician-scientists and other scientists from predominately underrepresented communities in frontier technologies emerging regarding pluripotent stem cells for clinically relevant discoveries in cancer. We intend to give students the knowledge of laboratory techniques, career mentoring and the ethical-legal-societal impact of cancer and stem cell research to greatly enhance their successful entry into this field. FriSC2 offers dynamic advanced training courses that provide a fresh series of daily lecturers on emerging concepts, followed by extended discussion, laboratory research, technologically intense workshops and informal seminars over week-long periods, alongside ongoing research opportunities and mentoring. This entry-level lab demonstration course is for 16 trainees, which is designed to educate and update cancer researchers on the implications of stem cells for mechanistic discoveries and designing improved strategies for treating cancer. FriSC2 provides an innovative educational opportunity to motivate biomedical trainees to pursue scientific careers in cancer research. The purpose of this training course is to provide comprehensive and sophisticated training in research strategies and state-of-the-art methods on cellular, molecular and genetic approaches for advancing the Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer Research.

NIH Loan Repayment Program - Pursue Your Financial Freedom

To assist in the recruitment and retention of biomedical or behavioral researchers, the NIH LRP offers qualified participants substantial assistance to repay educational loans. New LRP awards are made for two-year periods and repay up to \$35,000 of qualified educational debt annually. Participants may apply for competitive renewals, which are issued for one or two years. Opportunities are available in five research areas – Clinical, Pediatric, Health Disparities, Contraception and Infertility, and Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds. Access the webinar, review *Tips for Completing a Competitive Application* or contact a NIH representative here.

RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows Releases Call for Applications

The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows* (ENF) program is a three-year advanced leadership program for nurses who aspire to lead and shape health care locally and nationally. Fellows strengthen and improve their leadership abilities related to improving health and health care.

The program will award up to 20 fellowships for the 2014 cohort. Each award will be up to \$35,000 for each fellow over three years. **Deadline to apply: January 14, 2014**. Learn more about eligibility and selection criteria here.

NEW Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

The W. Montague Cobb-NMA Health Institute has launched the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. The Editor-in-Chief is Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Connecticut, and the publisher is Springer. The journal reports on the scholarly progress of work to understand, address, and ultimately eliminate health disparities based on race and ethnicity. Efforts to explore underlying causes of health disparities and to describe interventions that have been undertaken to address racial and ethnic health disparities are featured. Promising studies that are ongoing or studies that have longer term data are welcome, as are studies that serve as lessons for best practices in eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. The journal is accepting original articles, solicited evolutionary reviews presenting the state-of-the-art thinking on problems centered on health disparities, and unsolicited review articles of timely interest. The first issue will be published in early 2014, and the journal is now accepting submissions. For more information, click here.

Save the Date! 2014 NAAHP National Meeting - June 25-29, 2014

The 2014 NAAHP Program Planning Committee invites NAAHP members, Advisory Council members, and others to submit concurrent session and poster proposals for the 21st National Meeting in San Francisco, CA, June 25-29, 2014. Detailed information about the conference and online submission form are available here.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

Do you know of a medical student with a strong interest in public health or in practicing medicine with a broad, analytic perspective? Please refer them to *The CDC Experience* Applied Epidemiology Fellowship! Eight competitively selected fellows spend 10–12 months at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offices in Atlanta, GA, where they carry out epidemiologic analyses in various areas of public health. This challenging, diverse and intellectually stimulating environment provides multiple opportunities to enhance skills in research and analytic thinking, written and oral scientific presentations, and preventive medicine and public health. In the current era of health reform, it is more critical than ever that we train culturally proficient physicians who can work at the intersection of medicine and public health; graduates of this program are our future health system leaders and change agents, who will have the skills to address important health and healthcare disparities.

Please share the information below with interested medical students and faculty, especially in the fields of preventive medicine, community health, family practice, pediatrics, and primary care medicine. Applications for the 2014–2015 fellowship year must be submitted by **Friday, December 6, 2013**.

Scholarship: Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX)

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX), a fully-funded scholarship opportunity, is currently accepting applications.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) is a yearlong fellowship to study and work in Germany. CBYX is open to applicants in **all career fields**, though preference is given to

students in **STEM fields, agriculture, business, and vocational fields**. Students traditionally underrepresented in study abroad opportunities are especially encouraged to apply.

The fellowship is funded by the US and German governments through a grant provided by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended. More information can be found at www.CBYX.info.

The CBYX program annually provides 75 participants with:

- 2 months intensive German language training
- 1 semester of study at a German university or university of applied sciences
- 5-month internship with a German company in the participant's career field
- Transatlantic airfare, health insurance, and monthly living expense stipends

Prior German language knowledge is not required, though it is preferred. Applicants should have clear career goals and some relevant work experience in their career field, which may include summer, part-time, or internship work. Participants must be between the ages of **18-24**, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and be **US citizens or permanent residents**.

Interested applicants can apply online at <u>www.CBYX.info</u>. The application deadline for the 2014-2015 program is <u>December 1, 2013</u>. We look forward to receiving applications from your students!

Medical Student Rotation for Underrepresented Populations: Two Funding Opportunities for Medical Students and Residents from Underrepresented Populations

The Medical Student Rotation (MSR) provides financial support for U.S. medical students from populations underrepresented in medicine to complete a clinical or clinical research oncology rotation. A mentoring component is included, whereby award recipients are paired with clinical oncologists who will provide ongoing academic and career guidance.

Award Total: \$8,500 (Includes a \$5,000 stipend, a \$1,500 allowance for future travel to the ASCO Annual Meeting, and \$2,000 for mentor support)

Application Opens: October 17, 2013

Completed Application Due: December 17, 2013

Interested in mentoring a 2014 MSR recipient? Please fill out our Mentor Interest Survey.

Visit our website for more information and eligibility criteria.

Resident Travel Award for Underrepresented Populations

The Resident Travel Award (RTA) provides financial support for residents from populations underrepresented in medicine to attend ASCO's Annual Meeting. This award will allow the recipients to travel to the 2014 ASCO Annual Scientific Meeting, where they will have an opportunity to meet oncologists and to learn more about the career possibilities in oncology.

Award Total: \$1,500 (advance of \$1,500 for travel to the 2013 ASCO Annual Meeting, complimentary registration, and access to the ASCO's hotel block)

Application Opens: October 17, 2013

Completed Application Due: December 17, 2013

Visit our website for more information and eligibility criteria.

The American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research Announce Student Research Program

The SPR and APS offer a medical student research training program to encourage gifted medical students to consider careers in research related to pediatrics. This program is specifically designed for students seeking a research opportunity at an institution **OTHER THAN THEIR OWN MEDICAL SCHOOL.**

Students selected to the program are able to choose or are assigned to leading research laboratories/groups. Currently, our Directory of Laboratories/Research Groups lists research opportunities at more than 300 facilities. Each research experience allows the student to spend two to three months at 40 hours per week in a research environment. The program provides students with a stipend of \$61.20/day (as of 2012) for a maximum stipend of \$5,508. Learn more here.

Research Opportunity at NIH for Science Students: Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO)

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), one of the largest Institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is looking for science students with a passion to improve global health in the 21st century for its <u>Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO)</u> program, held February 3–6, 2014, in Bethesda, Maryland.

We are looking for dedicated science students interested in joining the NIAID research community. Candidates who are college-level seniors, medical school students, or doctoral candidates nearing their dissertation defense and from a population underrepresented in the biomedical sciences are eligible. Learn more here.

American Heart Association Go Red For Women Health Care Scholarship

American Heart Association's Go Red For Women and Macy's, its national sponsor, are offering scholarships for a third year to multicultural women interested in health care careers. The Go Red Multicultural Scholarship Fund will help assist diverse racial and ethnic women who are pursuing an education in the nursing, medical and allied health fields. A total of 16 females will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to support them in their studies. Online applications are available now through Dec. 31, 2013. For an online application, requirements and more information, please visit GoRedForWomen.org/Scholarship.Learn more here.

American Society of Hematology Research Experience for Medical Students: Minority Medical Student Award Program (MMSAP)

The MMSAP engages medical students in the field of hematology by providing participants with a stipend to complete an eight to 12-week research experience in the lab of an ASH member. Participants also receive travel support to attend the ASH annual meeting and the guidance of two mentors. Mentoring begins during the application phase and continues throughout medical school and residency. This program is open to minority medical students from the United States or Canada who are enrolled in a DO, MD, or MD/PhD program. There is no fee to apply. Visit the <u>ASH website</u> at the address below for specific eligibility requirements.

HHMI Medical Research Fellows Program Application Cycle Opens

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Competition System is open for applications to the HHMI Medical Research Fellows Program. The program enables medical students at U.S. schools to participate in a yearlong, mentored, basic, translational, or applied biomedical research training experience at an academic or

nonprofit institution other than the NIH, at HHMI's Janelia Farm Research Campus near Washington, D.C., or at K-RITH in Durban, South Africa. For more information, click <u>here</u>.

Fellowship Opportunity: The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy (Formerly The Commonwealth Fund / Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy) is a one-year, degree-granting, full-time program starting July 2014, designed to prepare physicians for leadership roles in transforming health care delivery systems and promoting health policies and practices that improve access to high performance health care for vulnerable populations including racial and ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged groups. Application Deadline: December 16, 2013. To download the fellowship brochure or for more information about the fellowship, click here.

Baylor College of Medicine Announces 11th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards

Baylor College of Medicine announces the Eleventh Annual Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards.

This annual contest honors the legendary, pre-eminent cardiovascular surgeon, pioneering medical scientist, gifted medical educator, prolific author and scholar, and passionate advocate of optimal healthcare throughout the world. Dr. Michael E. DeBakey has long advocated a role for the humanities in medical education and in the development of a full, enriching intellectual life.

Guidelines:

- 1. Only original poetry on a medical subject and by undergraduates currently enrolled in accredited United States medical schools is eligible.
- 2. By a copy of the student photograph I.D. card, entrants must document enrollment in an accredited
- 3. American medical school in pursuit of the M.D. degree.
- 4. Each medical student may submit only one poem, not to exceed 2 pages.
- 5. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2013.
- 6. Poems must be on a medical subject.
- 7. Poems must be:
 - a. Original, not published or under consideration for publication, and not having previously received a poetry award.
 - b. Limited to 2 pages, double-spaced.
 - c. In English; no translations from other languages.
 - d. Printed on 8.5 x 11 inch bond paper.
 - e. Accompanied by a cover page, with the following information:
 - i. Poet's name
 - ii. Current mailing and e-mailing addresses, telephone, and fax numbers if available.

- iii. Copy of photographed student I.D. card documenting medical school enrollment.
- f. Submitted in five hard (print) copies, as well as one compact disk (CD) in Microsoft Word (not DVD or floppy diskette).

Entries will not be acknowledged.

A distinguished panel of qualified judges will assess the poems.

Winners will be announced in July, 2014.

- The first prize recipient will receive a cash prize of \$1,000.00
- The second prize recipient will receive a cash prize of \$500.00
- The third prize recipient will receive a cash prize of \$250.00

The first-prize poem will become the property of the Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards program and will be submitted to a major medical periodical for consideration for publication. If it is accepted for publication, the publisher will own copyright.

Submissions should be sent to:

Dr. David H. Berger

Chairman, Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards

Professor and Vice-Chairman, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

Attention: Holly Shilstone Baylor College of Medicine

One Baylor Plaza, 404D, Mail Stop 390, Houston, Texas 77030

ARTICLES

Johns Hopkins' Pioneering Cardiac Surgeon Reflects on Lifetime of Service

It's been three decades since Dr. Levi Watkins Jr. made medical history when he stopped the heart of a California woman just long enough to perform the first human implantation of the automatic defibrillator. Watkins, who is African-American, finds it "ironic," even today, that "women and African-Americans are 30 to 40 percent less likely to get a defibrillator even when they meet the criteria and have the insurance."

When the idea came to him three decades ago, Watkins told Johns Hopkins Hospital officials that the institution "needed a King program" to mark the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. each January. Watkins, who orchestrates the popular event and hand picks each star-studded guest speaker, says it's probably one of the few times at the hospital when janitors, medical students, cafeteria cooks, executives and nurses can "sit down together in one auditorium in the name of humanity."

Watkins also made himself a pitchman and a champion who was determined to tackle the shortage of minority students and faculty at Hopkins. In 1983, Watkins was appointed to the medical school admissions board, and the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates for minorities climbed to an all-time high for the institution. As many as 14 Black students out of a total of 121 students earned their medical degrees that year. Access the full article here.

Neuroscientist Took Unlikely Path to Top

In a recent interview at his office at Columbia University, Hart, the neuroscientist, is recounting his climb from one of Miami's toughest neighborhoods to the academy and to the top of his field. "When it comes to drugs, and I don't mean this in an arrogant way," Hart prefaces, "I'm the best." As he tells it, there are few people who know as much as he does about the brain, how it works and how it looks when illicit drugs are introduced. "This work," he says, "is all that I have done."

It's been 22 years since Hart began to probe the pharmacology behind drugs as a neuropsychopharmacologist. Fourteen of those years have been at Columbia, where Hart is an associate professor of psychology, a research fellow at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, and a research scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. In his early days as a researcher, Hart was motivated to study the brain — first in mice, then in humans — thinking it was the surest way to help his family and friends overcome the scourge of addiction and violence that caused their decline. At one point, Hart, 46, even thought that he was going to "cure" substance abuse.

"But over the years, of course, I learned that drug addiction wasn't the problem," says Hart. Of those who regularly use alcohol, prescription drugs or illegal substances, 85 percent or more "do not have a problem," concludes Hart of the group he's most concerned about. Then there is a smaller population — 10 to 15 percent of people who use illicit drugs and are addicted to them. Despite their numbers, Hart says, it's this small group that most clouds the nation's perceptions about the impact of drugs and their users. This is a troubling matter for a scientist in constant search of the evidence to explain "what drugs do and don't do." Access the full article here.

Texas Affirmative-Action Dispute Comes Down to Defining Sufficient Diversity

When a federal circuit court hears arguments on Wednesday in a dispute over race-conscious admissions at the University of Texas at Austin, the judges will be dealing with both fresh instructions and big unresolved questions as a result of a recent decision in the case by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a June <u>ruling</u>, the Supreme Court <u>handed the case</u>, Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin, back to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The ruling made it clear that the justices thought the lower court had erred <u>in previously failing</u> to apply strict judicial scrutiny to the university's claim that achieving sufficient levels of student diversity requires its consideration of at least some applicants' race. The justices said little, however, about who should decide how much diversity is enough, and what should be the basis for such a decision.

The upshot of the Supreme Court's decision is that the debate taking place before the Fifth Circuit is far from some mere mopping-up exercise focused on subjecting Texas' admissions policy to some new, easily applied legal standard. What that standard should be remains a matter of dispute, as do major questions related to how the case should proceed. The rhetoric contained in the latest briefs submitted in the case reflect how contentious the dispute remains. Access the full article here.

How Mobile Apps Could Transform Rural Health Care

When it comes to rural health care, broadband is a matter of life or death. Rural residents seek services from primary-care doctors and emergency rooms, which works if the patient doesn't have a chronic or life-threatening condition. But when they do, rural patients don't always have access to the most comprehensive care. Medical specialists practice in cities, leaving rural doctors to weigh the choice between sending a patient away for treatment—costing both the patient and practice—or keeping them in house, where they risk patient outcomes but keep the paycheck. Access the full article here.

Is There More Than One Path to Medical School?

There's a feeling among premeds that we're on an assembly line for medical school—that college is just a series of classes to take in preparation for the basic science years of medical school, that clinical volunteering and research are the only valuable extracurriculars, and that if we're not the best within this set of parameters, then we won't be able to get into medical school. But where does this feeling come from? It's misinformation—a prescriptive standard of medical admissions taken from the Student Doctor Network (and other online repositories of applicants with 4.0 GPAs and a thousand community service hours) and passed around by word-of-mouth until it became the standard that we aspire to. Access the full article here.

Medical School Applicants, Enrollment Reach All-time Highs

Gains Increase Urgency to Lift Federal Cap on Residency Training Positions

Washington, D.C., October 24, 2013—A record number of students applied to and enrolled in the nation's medical schools in 2013, according to data released today by the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges).

The total number of applicants to medical school grew by 6.1 percent to 48,014, surpassing the previous record set in 1996 by 1,049 students. First-time applicants, another important indicator of interest in medicine, increased by 5.8 percent to 35,727. The number of students enrolled in their first year of medical school exceeded 20,000 for the first time (20,055), a 2.8 percent increase over 2012.

"At a time when the nation faces a shortage of more than 90,000 doctors by the end of the decade and millions are gaining access to health insurance, we are very glad that more students than ever want to become physicians. However, unless Congress lifts the 16-year-old cap on federal support for residency training, we will still face a shortfall of physicians across dozens of specialties," said AAMC President and CEO Darrell G. Kirch, M.D. "Students are doing their part by applying to medical school in record numbers. Medical schools are doing their part by expanding enrollment. Now Congress needs to do its part and act without delay to expand residency training to ensure that everyone who needs a doctor has access to one." Access the full press release here.