



Latino Medical Student Association at UC Irvine

Newsletter

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S P R I N G • 2 0 1 1

A Big Year in Preparation for Southern California's First National LMSA Conference

Nancy Anaya

UC Irvine's LMSA will be the first California school to host the sixth Annual LMSA National Conference, themed "Uniting our Voices for Justice in Healthcare." It is currently Scheduled for Friday, April 1st, and Saturday, the 2nd. (Below is a design concept for T-shirts available at the conference.)



Our goal for this year's conference is to strengthen our undergraduate component and increase the resources and opportunities for undergraduates to network with medical students and physicians. In hopes of meeting our goal, we have set up new networking opportunities for our undergraduates and are working hard to minimize the banquet prices and encourage undergraduates to attend the banquet scheduled for Saturday night.

The conference will begin on Friday with the high school component, hosting 150 high school students from primarily local communities. Our high school students will have a unique opportunity to participate in a full day of hands on clinical skills workshops at the UCI School of Medicine's brand new simulation center.

Friday afternoon will continue with an undergraduate and medical student component. This year, UCI LMSA is adding a unique touch to the conference by providing both undergraduates and medical students with the opportunity to learn and practice new clinical skills. Undergraduates get to learn skills from Latino physicians from the Southern California community and subsequently have a chance to practice them alongside medical students. We hope this approach will reinforce the medical school pipeline by fostering a learning atmosphere among undergraduates, medical students, and physicians. The evening ends with a networking event hosted by Southern California Kaiser.

Saturday will be a full day, in which we expect over 1000 participants from medical schools and residency programs nationwide. While the networking possibilities are particularly valuable to medical students, undergraduates will also be able to build their networks. Since medical schools that historically have not attended past conferences are anticipated to attend this year, this opportunity will allow them to network with medical students attending schools outside California so that they may further extend their networks of resources and mentorship beyond California.

The conference committees are working diligently to ensure all attendees have a fruitful experience. Our workshops offer much variety, ranging from how-tos directed towards undergraduates on

strengthening themselves as medical school applicants, to workshops enhancing both undergraduate and medical students' social conscience on issues affecting underserved Latino communities. Another new and exciting addition to the conference is a residency component being put on by NHMA Council of Residents.

Our team is putting in huge efforts to make this year's LMSA National Conference a memorable learning experience for everyone. Please stay tuned and visit our website for program updates and registration information.

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High School Students to Flood UCI School of Medicine

Marcella Torres

Collaborators from UCI's undergraduate organization, Chicanos for Community Medicine (CCM), and LMSA have been working hard to plan the high school segment of this year's National LMSA Conference. High school programming will include hands-on clinical skills workshops on a variety of topics, including suturing and ultrasound. Also, college preparatory workshops will expose high schoolers to everything they need to know about college, ranging from financial planning to stress management and how to get to college from a non-traditional path.

CCM/LMSA are excited to welcome Keynote Speaker Dr. Kathy Flores, founder of the Fresno area Doctors Academy. CCM/LMSA and the Doctors Academy share a mission to support and encourage students rarely seen in higher education or medicine. We believe that this collaboration is sure to create a dynamic conference environment, in which students can expand their horizons and learn what they need to on how to achieve their dreams. *(Continued on the next page)*



Dr. Flores speaks to Doctors Academy students about medicine.

The high school segment will be held on Friday, April 1, 2011. 150 high schoolers from the Santa Ana Unified School District, Orange High School, and the Duroville community on the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation will attend the conference. CCM/LMSA are proud to welcome all our honored guests and speakers and look forward to a successful spring conference!

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Cadaver Day

Ismael Corral

This year, the goal of the UCI Undergraduate-LMSA Mentorship program is to provide a high quality program that pre-medical students are excited to be a part of and will take full advantage of. We jump started 2011 with “Cadaver Day.” For most medical students, the reality of being a medical student comes about when we take hold of a scalpel and make our first incision. This was our goal for our undergraduate mentees—we wanted to offer pre-meds that same feeling most of us experience at our first day in lab. That being said, we had thirty attendees, fifteen from our LMSA Mentorship Program and an additional fifteen from the CCM chapter at UCI.

We started the day off with a brief introduction and then it was off to lab. One by one, they put on their

lab coats and slipped on some gloves, and off they were! For maximum exposure, we split the students into groups of four to five and had them rotate to seven different stations. At each station, first year medical students presented one of the following: muscles of the thorax, lungs, heart, abdomen, GI tract and kidneys, back, and x-rays. In this respect, they were able to see the inner anatomy of the human body and ask any questions or satisfy any curiosities they had.

After the gloves came off and the lab coats were placed back on their hangers, we had a moment of reflection. For most students, this was the first time they had seen a lifeless body. To wrap up the day, we presented the poem “Schoolteacher” by Timothy Minh.

(For the privacy of the cadavers, no photography in the anatomy lab was permitted.)

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Diversity Dinners

Cristina Wheeler Castillo

We currently do not have practicing physicians that appropriately reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the people of California. Therefore, recruitment of qualified and passionate Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) students is a priority for LMSA at UCI SOM such that we might increase the numbers UIM of physicians and others willing to serve in disadvantaged areas. We students address this societal need through various initiatives, one of which is the Pre-Interview Diversity Dinners that we hold September through May every year during interview season.

The purpose of these dinners is to recruit UIM and Disadvantaged applicants by giving them the opportunity to talk extensively with current students about our first-hand experiences learning medicine at UCI. These conversations tend to go beyond the traditional questions of curriculum to deeper issues of social justice in medicine; for example, applicants ask about community service projects they could become involved with as medical students at UCI, such as the UCI Outreach Clinic,

Medical Initiative Against Homelessness, Flying Samaritans, and Duroville, to name a few.

Because we usually have PRIME-LC (Programs in Medical Education for the Latino Community) applicants, we discuss the program from our perspective as students and discuss the tools PRIME-LC is able to give us as future physician-advocates caring for an entire Latino community. At the end of the night, we hope that applicants leave the dinner with the sense that UCI SOM students are especially passionate, active, and friendly people. We also hope they have experienced the UCI SOM family spirit and realize this is a place where they would be supported through one of the most difficult and rewarding experiences of their lives. This is the impression I had when I attended the pre-interview dinner as an applicant, and I can proudly say that I definitely made the right choice.

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Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey Cashin

UCI LMSA's consistent fiscal responsibility and record revenue place us in a favorable financial situation leading up to the LMSA national conference. Recently, we established a business account with Wells Fargo to facilitate the transfer of conference revenue from PayPal.

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