

Underserved Pathway Mentor Memo Spring 2013

Spring is arriving around our region, the days are lengthening, and our students are all approaching new transitions. We want to thank you for your work with and support for our students. Below is information about what is going on for your students, year by year.

Now you can also join and follow us on Twitter, finding great ideas for conversations with our students.

https://twitter.com/UWSOM_UP

Thanks again for taking time to be a mentor for our Underserved Pathway students. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

First Year Students

First year students are often feeling more settled and pleased to have two quarters/or one and a half semesters completed. Your student has likely finalized summer plans. He or she may be accepted for the Global Health Immersion Program (GHIP) or the Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP). These programs fund immersion experiences for students in international, rural and urban underserved settings for at least a month in the summer between first and second year. They can also complete their Individual Investigative Inquiry (III) project during this time. Please do check in with your students about their summer plans.

Academically your students continue with their basic sciences curriculum and Introduction to Clinical Medicine. Most are doing or have done a preceptorship, so discussing their clinical experiences continues to be important. Students should explore community service or service learning opportunities to meet this requirement. They should also be considering what non clinical selective to take and should start completing some of the online modules.

Second Year Students

Second year students are gearing up to finish this spring term and study for part one of their USMLE boards. The curriculum continues to be hard and fast paced. In the small college groups over the course of the year, your student completes six H&Ps, presents the cases orally at the bedside, and listens to and discusses at least 24 other presentations by classmates.

They will enjoy continued discussion about how they are developing their clinical skill set, including the basics such as hearing murmurs and visualizing the optic disc and fundus. Students have put in their requests for their third year "track" or order of the required clerkships and may have received their schedules by the time you receive this. They will no doubt benefit from discussing their interests and schedules with you. Most students find it helpful to do a clerkship in the specialties they are considering in the middle of the year.

It is also important to continue to discuss your student's progress in the pathway. They should consider completing a least four of their eight required modules before their clerkships. They must also complete their 2 credits of non-clinical selectives with an underserved focus by the end of second year. Have they participated in any community service or service learning? Did they complete their Individual Investigative Inquiry (III)? If not, what are their plans for meeting this requirement?

Third Year Students

At this time, most third year students have completed five or six clerkship experiences. As they see and learn more clinical medicine, questions may arise around the health disparities that they see on their rotations and the types of care practiced in community versus academic settings. This can provide fruitful material for conversation.

Students are also now planning out their fourth year rotation schedules. Your guidance in selecting elective clerkships, and discussions around care of the underserved and careers with the underserved can be most helpful as your student navigates this stage of their professional development. If your student has not completed 12 credits of clerkship with an underserved focus they will need to choose elective clerkship experiences that meet this pathway requirement.

Fourth Year Students

Your fourth year student knows their plans for next year, most going into residencies. An email or phone call to your student to check in and see where they were matched is a great way to keep in touch with your student. And of course, they will appreciate your congratulations for their achievement: they graduate June 1, 2013!