

Underserved Pathway Mentor Memo Winter 2012

First Year Students

First year students are often feeling more settled and pleased to have a quarter completed. Your student needs to be working on his or her summer plans. He or she may be applying for the Global Health Immersion Program (GHIP) or the Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP). The GHIP application is due January 11th and the RUOP application is due January 27th. 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.

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 also usually feel more settled during Winter quarter. The curriculum continues to be hard and fast paced. In the small college groups, your student complete two H&Ps, presented the cases orally at the bedside, and listened to and discussed at least 8 other presentations of classmates. They will enjoy continued discussion about how they are developing their clinical skill set, including basics such as hearing murmurs and visualizing the optic disc and fundus. Students will need to put in their requests for their third year “track” or order of the required clerkships. They will no doubt benefit from discussing their interests and schedules with you. Most students find it helpful to rotate in the specialties they are considering in the middle of the year.

It is 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 three or four 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. Students are also beginning to consider their career paths as they plan 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 should be completing their residency interviews. They should also be considering their residency program choices and preparing to enter their match list into the NRMP system between January 15th and February 22nd. As students weigh their residency program options, advice on the types of training and experiences working with underserved populations that would best suit their career goals can be helpful in their prioritization process. Match day for students is March 16th. 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.