Neuroscience People

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2011

Nola Juste—Accepted to the School of Public Health Behavioral and Community Health Sciences Program.

Jim Beraldi—UCIS Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs' John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship, UHC Research Abroad Fellowship and Study Abroad Pitt in China award.

Mike Gowen—American Physiological Society (APS) Research Fellowship

Grace Lindsay is the recipient of the DAAD Study Scholarship. She will be involved in Computational Neuroscience research in Freiburg, Germany next year.

Congrats Grace!

To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here.
### APRIL/MAY 2011

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**Important Dates**

- April 25-30, 2011: Final Exams Week
- May 1, 2011: Annual Commencement Convocation
- July 8, 2011: Deadline to apply for Dec 2011 Graduation

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**April 25-30, 2011**
- Final Exams Week

**May 1, 2011**
- Annual Commencement Convocation

**July 8, 2011**
- Deadline to apply for Dec 2011 Graduation
Major Requirements
Students must complete BIOSC 0150, BIOSC 0160, CHEM 0110, and CHEM 0120 with a grade of C or better (not C-) in order to declare Neuroscience as a major. Students must earn a B– or better in Intro to Neuroscience in order to continue in the major. To graduate with a BS degree in Neuroscience, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in major courses and in co-requisite courses.

Departmental Honors
Departmental Honors are awarded to students who have achieved outstanding academic success. To qualify for this distinguished honor, a minimum overall GPA of 3.25, a minimum Neuroscience GPA of 3.25, and a substantial amount of approved Neuroscience research must be conducted. Additionally, students are required to give a public presentation of their research. Eligible students must then pass a faculty review.

Capstone Requirement
Students who have matriculated to A & S since Fall of 2007 must complete a capstone experience. For more information, please contact the advising office via email or call 412-624-5156.

Fellowship Opportunities

University of Pittsburgh Fellowships

Brackenridge Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship
Research participants receive a monthly $800 stipend to assure their freedom from the need to work during the summer.

Chancellor’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship
$600 one-term stipend for undergraduate students engaged in research.

Chancellor’s Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship
$600 one-term stipend for undergraduate students engaged in teaching with a faculty member.

Online Advising
Now Available!
Schedule your appointment today!

Apply for Fellowships Early!
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<td>Intro to Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Bio Basis of Learning and Memory</td>
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You **MUST** meet with an advisor to have your ADV Hold removed!
Chief Research Associates in National Alliance of Research Associates Programs (NARAP)

Chief Research Associates (RAs) are college seniors or graduates who see the career value from a year of clinical research before going to health professional school. They are part of the leadership for emergency medicine research teams at National Alliance of Research Associates Programs (NARAP) member institutions around the country.

Chief RAs are the working heart of their Research Associates (RA) Programs, bringing large numbers of college undergraduates into the emergency department to serve as participant enrollers and data collectors for clinical research and quality improvement programs.

In addition to having an integral role in their home hospital’s research efforts, Chief RAs will be the leadership cadre for NARAP’s national, multi-center study on tobacco cessation efforts among emergency department patients and visitors. With a projected enrollment of 50-100,000 research participants, this has the potential to be the largest prospective clinical trial ever done. Think this might be a plus on a health professional school application? Chief RAs volunteer about twenty (20) hours per week for the 15 months from mid-May 2011 through matriculation to health professional school in mid-August, 2012 generally have part-time / full-time jobs in addition to their Chief RA position work closely with researchers at their NARAP institutions on all aspects of their RA Program’s clinical studies from concept development through publication will train at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT for two weeks, Saturday 21 May through Sunday 5 June and at their home hospitals throughout the year via web-based sessions have duties such as recruiting, training and supervising line-RAs management of large study databases building their RA Program’s website interacting with emergency physicians and staff developing and maintaining their RA Program’s internal and external communications systems work to potential authorship on their RA Program’s research serving as a key part of NARAP’s national study

Current NARAP member institutions: Hartford Hospital (Hartford, CT) Lawrence & Memorial Hospital (New London, CT) Creighton University Medical Center (Omaha, NE) Jefferson University Hospital (Philadelphia, PA) University of Massachusetts (Worcester, MA) University of Rochester (Chief positions already filled) Hackensack University Med Center (Hackensack, NJ) St. Vincent’s Medical Center (Bridgeport, CT)

As NARAP enlists more medical centers, additional Chief positions will become available and announced through your Health Professions Adviser.

If you are a senior or graduate who is taking “off” the upcoming year between college and health professional school and would benefit from the opportunity afforded as a Chief RA, check out the “Chief Research Associates” section of the NARAP website, www.theNARAP.org, and the similar section at www.RAProgram.org.

For those who wish to apply for a Chief RA position at a NARAP institution or for any questions you might have, please contact Keith Bradley, MD at Director@RAProgram.org or 203 767 6363.
Looking for a clinical experience opportunity this summer?

research associates (RA) programs
Departments of Emergency Medicine
St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Hartford Hospital (UConn), Hartford, CT
Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, CT

Summer Semester
Session One: 4 June - 14 August 2011 — Session Two: 24 June – 4 September 2011

Volunteer positions available for pre-health professions students as Research Associates (RAs) in Emergency Medicine

A manageable time commitment: one 4-hour shift per week in the Emergency Department depending on the number of RAs, serving more shifts possible.

Enroll participants in studies on primary health care issues in the emergency department research this semester at all three hospitals = tobacco cessation study other research and/or opportunities may be available at each institution. Structured, clinical interactions with large number of emergency patients RAs routinely have encounters mirroring the physician experience with 100-150 emergency patients and their visitors per semester performance assessments ® end-of-semester evaluation letter to health professions adviser mandatory Orientation Sessions on Saturday, 4 June and Sunday, 5 June (Session One) or Saturday, 24 June and Sunday, 25 June (Session Two) (or as individually designated by each hospital)

For more information and application materials visit www.RAprogram.com

Explore and demonstrate your commitment to a health professional career through research in the Emergency Department, the place where acute medical care begins. Watch “ER” on TV and guess what it is like; be a Research Associate in the Emergency Department and learn the reality.

Neuroscience Research Position. Join an exciting area of neuroscience research in the Neurosurgery Department at the University of Pittsburgh. Our research program involves experimental studies to better understand the mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases of the aging population (e.g., amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and Alzheimer’s disease) and has provided clues to therapeutic strategies that may improve the devastating effects of these disorders. Our translational program centers on a number of novel hypotheses of neuronal death that include protein aggregation, mitochondrial dysfunction, nucleosome dynamics, excitotoxicity, oxidative stress, and apoptosis. This research involves the use of transgenic and knock-in animal models that have genetic mutations found in patients with neurological diseases. Using these animal models, we have developed a drug translational program to identify therapeutic strategies to abrogate disease progression. This program runs full circle in identifying mechanisms of disease in patients, performing preclinical drug trials in animals with disease, and translating those effective trials back to patients in performing human clinical trials. This is a highly productive research program that is relocating from Boston. This is an entry-level position. We will train the applicant in animal husbandry, genotyping, molecular neuroscience techniques, and histopathological and analytical methodologies. A background in the science is preferable. Any experience is a plus. Please call Patricia Quirin at 412 802-6497 for further information. Resumes can be sent via email to Dr. Robert J. Ferrante at rjferr@bu.edu.
Here is an excellent opportunity for you to begin medical school at The University of Queensland School of Medicine-Ochsner Clinical School, where we have open seats for the January 2012 cohort of US citizens and permanent residents. It features:

- An integrated global medical education at one of the world's best medical schools-ranked in the top 50 among the Top 400 International Programs in the Biological and Life Sciences by "US News and World Report" in 2011.

- Two years of basic sciences at The University of Queensland School of Medicine in Brisbane, Australia.

- Two years of clinical training at the UQ Ochsner Clinical School in New Orleans, Louisiana, the U.S. campus of The University of Queensland School of Medicine.

- USMLE Preparation for Step 1 and Step 2

- Participation in Match Day and academic advising and support in the Match.

- Ochsner itself has 70 residencies to offer annually on a competitive basis.

- A January 2012 entry, the start of the Australian academic year, not a mid-year entry.

- Minimum requirements to apply: MCAT score of 8, 8, M, 8; a B average; and an earned B.A. or B.S. degree. (The average GPA of the 2011 entering class was 3.4, and the average MCAT was 29.)

- Rolling admissions.

- U.S. Federal financial aid is available to students who qualify.

About UQ:
The University of Queensland includes seven faculties, 33 schools, and 350 degree programs. UQ is a member of the prestigious Australian "Group of Eight", placing it within the top ranks of Australian universities. UQ's six internationally significant, interdisciplinary research institutes offer a variety of research/study opportunities to students in the School of Medicine, including the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, the Brain Institute, the Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine Research Center.

About Ochsner:
Ochsner Health System is a non-profit, academic, multi-specialty, healthcare delivery system dedicated to patient care, research and education. HealthGrades, the nation's leading health care ratings organization, has ranked Ochsner among the top 5% of hospitals in the U.S. for exceptional patient care for 2011 and is counted among the nation's top 15 teaching hospitals. The system includes seven hospitals and over 35 health centers located throughout Southeast Louisiana. Ochsner employs more than 750 physicians in over 90 medical specialties and subspecialties and more than 300 clinical research trials annually. Ochsner has more than 11,000 employees system-wide.

If you are interested, please contact me. My phone number is 646.648.0213 and my email is tvolpe@mededpath.org. I will be happy to answer your questions. If you would like to receive our printed materials, please just let me know and I will send them out to you. The link to our website, where the application is available to download, is http://www.mededpath.org/about_program.php <http://www.mededpath.org/about_program.php> .
HELP WANTED

Seeking a reliable, patient, and agreeable person to assist a 34-year-old woman with a spinal cord injury in Oakland from mid-May (May 15) through August (possibly into the school year)

Afternoons 4:00 to 5:30
Qualifications:
At least 20+ years old
Nonsmoker
Clear criminal background, work history and references

Characteristics:
Positive attitude
Flexible schedule
Respect my way of doing things
Effective communication including giving instruction, listening and following instruction

Job Duties:
Cooking
Housekeeping
Assisting with tasks and activities

$9 -- Not under the table, taxes are deducted
Call 412-682-2878 and leave a message for Amy with name and phone number.

Paid Research Opportunity, Summer 2011, in Human Brain Connectivity Mapping

Dr. Walter Schneider (Psychology & Neurosurgery U. Pittsburgh & UPMC) has open positions in advanced computational research for undergraduate and graduate students. Students will participate in mapping human brain fiber tracts using a non-invasive MRI-based imaging method that we have developed, called High Definition Fiber Tracking. HDFT can map the “cables of the brain,” tracking 500,000 connective streamlines and segmenting them into fiber tracts (see Figures). These new techniques are applied to visualization and quantification of human fiber tracts in basic research and have clinical applications in neurosurgical planning, diagnosis of traumatic brain injury, and genetic disorders. Students will be assigned specific brain networks to quantify in ten human brain datasets and be expected to research the related literature. Knowledge of functional neuroanatomy, full time summer availability, and an average of 10 hours/week of availability in the fall are preferred. Options for research credit, possible publications, pay and/or summer support are likely. Send a brief statement of interest, résumé, and informal transcript to Emily Braun ecb27@pitt.edu.

Application form  http://www.lrdc.pitt.edu/schneider/A002.doc

Information about research program and images of work:
Video 4:00 introduction: http://www.lrdc.pitt.edu/schneider/V001.mpg
Video 0:37 of TBI: http://www.lrdc.pitt.edu/schneider/V002.wmv
Basic Research: http://www.lrdc.pitt.edu/schneider/D003.pdf
Research Jobs in Brain Imaging

The Psychiatric Molecular Imaging Program (PMIP) is a research lab within the University of Pittsburgh Departments of Radiology and Psychiatry. The objective of the lab is to utilize Positron Emission Tomography imaging methodology to characterize the neurochemistry of the brain in schizophrenia and addictive disorders to accelerate therapeutic discovery.

The PMIP has two clinical research associate job openings (full-time) for which we seek individuals with a bachelor's degree in neuroscience (recent graduates and graduating seniors are encouraged to apply for these positions) who are highly motivated and committed to a future career in medicine or neuroscience. Job responsibilities will include participation in scientific discussions within and outside the group, assisting the PI and his collaborators in writing protocols, recruiting and screening study participants, implementing the study protocols at the brain imaging center, and administering neurocognitive tasks and clinical rating scales tasks. If interested to learn more about these opportunities, please contact Raj Narendran, MD at narendranr@upmc.edu.

Looking for undergraduate to assist in follow-up research study

Duties include:
- Gathering information on students who completed the NIMH Fellowship in Mental Health Research
- Entering data into Microsoft Access and running analyses in SPSS
- Managing those Fellows who are due for follow-up
- Organizing files and finding most recent contact information
- Attending weekly research staff meetings

Approximately 3-6 hours/week. Training can start this semester for the summer/next school year. Can be done for credit.

Contact Dr. Gretchen Haas, haasgl@upmc.edu if interested.

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a concrete impact in the fight against global poverty? MEDLIFE (www.medlifeweb.org) is a global health organization that works to improve access to Medicine, Education, and Development (MEDs) in impoverished regions of Latin America, and it's now at Pitt! We are currently looking for students who are interested in participating in Medlife's new Pitt chapter, and great leadership positions are available!

Our organization offers students an unrivaled opportunity to engage in hands-on work both locally and globally in order to improve the lives of those in need. Through our Mobile Clinics and community development projects, students are able to work alongside doctors and other professionals as we bring meaningful, sustainable change to areas of extreme poverty. MEDLIFE has already served tens of thousands of individuals in Peru and Ecuador, and we will continue to grow with your help. Medlife gives you the opportunity to go on a week-long Mobile Clinic to Latin America with other Pitt students this summer!

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved! Check out our website at www.medlifeweb.org for more information and contact Pitt's Medlife Chapter President Lauren Osen at lpo2@pitt.edu for information on how you can get involved in Pitt's chapter, apply for a leadership position, or go on a Mobile Clinic this summer!

Everyone is welcome; we hope to hear from you soon!
2011 Pre-Professional Health Committee Materials Available Now

Click Here

Pre-Health Professions Advisor Spring Term Walk-in Schedule

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The Pitt Pulse is a student organization wholly committed to creating a respectable, reliable and relevant monthly periodical available on Pitt’s campus. We feature articles relevant to all pre-health students including advice on academics and gaining related experience, accounts of volunteering and conducting research, discourse on admission and standardized tests and opinions of politics and medicine. You can also enjoy profiles of local health-care professionals and of professional schools of interest.

Find more information at www.pitt.edu/~sorc/thepulse

The Admissions and Student Affairs Office at UC Berkeley's School of Optometry is pleased to announce that we are celebrating 6 years of our summer "Opto-Camp" program!

We will again offer two sessions this summer, June 20-22 and July 18-20.

The goal of Berkeley Optometry's Opto-Camp is to introduce underrepresented and first-generation pre-health science majors to Optometry as a potential future career track and to prepare them to be successful applicants to optometry school. The objective of Berkeley Optometry's Opto-Camp is to present a three-day "in residence" experience that will provide participants with opportunities to learn about the profession of optometry and the process of becoming an optometrist.

Please note there is a $125 program fee for those selected to attend, however, we also offer a limited number of scholarships per session.

Program specifics and the application are linked here:

http://optometry.berkeley.edu/opt_txtpp/admissions/admitoptocamp.html

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine provides an outstanding environment for the training of future veterinary scientists through our combined VMD-PhD (DVM-PhD) program. It's an excellent way for you to continue your education while impacting the future of medicine for humans and all species. Find out more at www.pennvetphd.org
Prepare Yourself at

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Come join us on Friday June 17, 2011 for our
On Campus Day!

LECOM offers the best choices to prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals

Schedule of events for Friday June 17, 2011:

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Osteopathic Medicine/Pharmacy Presentations
2:00 – 2:35 p.m. Tour of the LECOM Facilities
2:40 – 3:00 p.m. Compounding Lab Presentation (Pharmacy)
2:40 – 3:30 p.m. OMM Demonstrations (Medical Students)
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Light Refreshments w/ LECOM Staff and Faculty
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Trolley Tour of Erie (Optional)

To confirm your attendance please contact: Jamie Murphy, Admissions Counselor (814) 866-8117 or jmurphy@lecom.edu by Monday, June 10, 2011

“We the will to succeed is important, the will to prepare is vital.”

Unite For Sight is a non-profit global health delivery organization that empowers communities worldwide to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness. Unite For Sight applies best practices in global health and social entrepreneurship to achieve its goal of high quality eye care for all. Unite For Sight supports eye clinics worldwide by investing human and financial resources in their social ventures to eliminate patient barriers to eye care. In addition to being a leader in providing cost-effective care to the world's poorest people, Unite For Sight's Global Impact Corps and Global Health University develop and nurture the next generation of global health leaders.

Interested students are invited to apply for Unite For Sight's Global Impact Corps, volunteering overseas in a partner eye clinic.

All volunteers participating in Unite For Sight's international programs are Global Impact Fellows. They participate daily with local ophthalmologists, local optometrists, and local ophthalmic nurses to eliminate patient barriers to care and to facilitate comprehensive year-round eye care for patients living in extreme poverty.

To date, Unite For Sight has served 1.2 million patients, sponsored 42,273 sight-restoring surgeries, and trained 7,700 Global Impact Fellows.

For information on applying, please visit <http://www.uniteforsight.org/volunteer-abroad> and/or contact Global Impact Fellow, Unite For Sight Campus Representative, and Pitt Neuroscience major Jim Baraldi at <jhb29@pitt.edu>.
Kaplan is hosting a **20-Minute Workout Challenge** to train your brain for test day! Up against the clock, participants can preview 16 questions that are similar to those found on the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, DAT, OAT or PCAT. Incorrect answers are accompanied by expert explanations and strategies, which will help you improve skills prior to test day! You can maximize your level of preparation by playing as many times as you would like. PLUS, each perfect score will be entered to win one of three iPads or Galaxys during the months of April through June.

During the 20-minutes that you have in between classes, during lunch, or as a study break during a late night at the Hillman Library, choose a way to kill time that pays big. On test day, you'll be even more prepared and may be the owner of a brand new iPad or Galaxy. Really, it's a win-win situation!

**Register at [www.kaplanworkout.com](http://www.kaplanworkout.com) as a Univ of Pittsburgh student.** I am keeping track of the results and would LOVE to see a Pitt students take the top spots in the nation!

Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Students in Pennsylvania –

PA AHEC Scholars Program now accepting applications!

Northwest and Southcentral Pennsylvania Area Health Education Centers in conjunction with Penn State University School of Medicine present the PA AHEC Scholars Program

The PA AHEC Scholars Program is designed to provide pre-medical and pre-dental students professional development opportunities to prepare them for the medical or dental school application and acceptance. Students will be given the opportunity to build their resume and prepare a personal statement and an application that will be compelling to admissions committees of Pennsylvania medical schools.

Please find a printable copy of the application and more information online at: [http://www.nwpaahec.org/explore-healthcareers/college-students](http://www.nwpaahec.org/explore-healthcareers/college-students) Or [http://www.scpa-ahec.org/Scholars%20Program.htm](http://www.scpa-ahec.org/Scholars%20Program.htm)

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MAY 27, 2011.**

**Eligibility to Submit an Application***

1. Must be a Second Semester Freshman.
2. Be a Pre-Medical or Pre-Dental Student in a Pennsylvania College/University (“Pre-medical/dental” is defined as having a curriculum that can fulfill the course requirements for entrance into medical/dental school).
3. Resident of or attending school in one of the following 31 counties in Pennsylvania:
   - Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren – Use NW PA AHEC website
   - Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, Somerset, York – use SC PA AHEC website

**Selection Criteria to the Program***:*!

1. Students must be from an Underserved Area or Disadvantaged Population (Advisors must confirm eligibility in writing).
2. Academic Promise as a Pre-Med or Dental Student.
3. Demonstrated Commitment to Serving People.
4. Extra-Curricular Activities.

**Consideration given to pre-medical/dental students who are Pennsylvania residents attending an out-of-state college/university if openings are available.*