Director’s Message

Preparing the next generation of health care providers: Quality instruction, scholarly skills and performance techniques.

After an eight-year history of successfully selecting applicants for the Pre-Med post baccalaureate program at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine, I was offered the opportunity to launch the Post Baccalaureate Pre-Health program in 2016 by the leadership at the College of Science and Technology (CST) to optimize student success.

Phase One: introduce a pre-health module to accommodate applicants wishing to apply broadly to a variety of health professions: medicine, podiatry, dentistry, pharmacy, physician assistant.

Phase Two: select faculty and customize the curriculum to ensure our students are prepared for the highly emphasized biochemistry component of the MCAT2015 without extending the program’s one-year timeline. We achieved this by combining the fundamental concepts and biologically relevant topics of Organic Chemistry I and II, into one semester, and replacing Ochem II with a semester of biochemistry.

The customized curriculum adjustment allowed Biology, Physics, and General Chemistry to be taught with a focus on health professions school applications and the standardized test topics. The luxury to be able to do so stems from our program not being part of a degree-granting track, and the fact that our courses are offered only to our post bac students.

Phase Three: embed scholarly skills, including growth mindset and learning skills and tutoring into the core schedules throughout the program. The learning tools phase (performance techniques) includes customized standardized test preparation, which affords a deeper understanding of critical reasoning and analytical skills.

Our commitment is ensuring our students not only become competitive professional school applicants, but also more humanistic and compassionate humans and, as a result, better physicians, dentists, pharmacists, and physician assistants in the future.

Lastly, our ongoing commitment is to our students and alumni, whom we recognize and applaud as our greatest asset. They inspire us to constantly strive for excellence in our program.

Grace Hershman
Associate Vice Dean and Program Director

Prominent child abuse pediatrician to speak at the Fall Speaker Series

The Temple CST Post Bacc Pre-Health program is delighted to welcome Maria DiGiorgio McColgan, MD, MSEd, FAAP at the inaugural Fall Speaker Series on October 25, 2018 at 5:30 in SERC 110A.

Dr. McColgan is a child abuse pediatrician at The CARES Institute, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Rowan SOM, and the CARES Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship Director at Cooper University Health. Dr. McColgan is board certified in Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics. Dr. McColgan received a Master’s in Elementary Education and her medical degree from Temple University. Dr. McColgan completed her pediatric residency at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children and was the founding Medical Director of the Child Protection Program, a position she held for over 13 years. Dr. McColgan is the founding Advisory Board Chair and Pediatric Advisor of Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania. In 2018, she was appointed to the School District of Philadelphia Board of Education and has served on the Pennsylvania Children’s Trust Fund Board and the Philadelphia Academy Charter School Board.

In a lecture titled “I Chose Temple, Child Abuse Pediatrics Chose Me,” Dr. McColgan will speak about her educational journey through Temple University, first as an undergraduate and then as a medical student and her professional experiences as a child abuse pediatrician in Philadelphia.

All are welcome and light refreshments will be served.
Alana Payne, Amanda George, Devaki Dravid, Dan Forrest, Lauren McCandless, and Jennifer Glusman (pictured above from left to right) successfully completed their first year of medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Jen Glusman Shines at PCOM

Jen Glusman, a 2013 graduate of the University of Washington with a degree in physiology, was a member of the inaugural class of the Temple CST Post Bacc program.

She has completed her first year of medical school at PCOM, where she received the First Year Achievement Award for her work as Director of the Student-Run PCOM Clinic.

Also now in his second year of medical school: Ryan Dahlin (pictured here with Jen Glusman) at University of Illinois College Medicine at Chicago.

Lindsay Serwatka receives her white coat at the Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine.

Jordon Friedman successfully completed his first year at SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine.

Sho Da-Silva receives his white coat from Ross University of Medicine.
Diverse group of students enroll this year

A total of 60 students (23 in the BCHS cohort and 37 in the ACHS cohort) from 14 states and Honduras are enrolled in the 2018-2019 class. Some fun facts about this year's class are:

- It is multilingual, with members speaking a wide variety of languages including Arabic, French, Hebrew, Japanese and Spanish
- Some of its members are parents with children ranging from newborns to teenagers
- In addition to medicine, members are interested in pursuing dentistry and physician assistant programs
- It is athletic; members played a diverse variety of varsity and club sports, including baseball, crew, and cricket
- It includes the brother of a member of the inaugural class, a pharmacist, and a rabbi

Pranav Mellacheruvu
Issaquah, WA
University of WA
Biochemistry
Medicine

Sierra Derti
Schnecksville, PA
Temple University
Biology
Physician Assistant

Paige Snow
Decatur, TX
Jacobs University Breman
Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience
Medicine

Cristian Diaz
Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras
UNITEC
Biomedical Engineering
Medicine

James Martinez
Wilmington, DE
University of DE
Biology
Dentistry

Jordan Wright
Overland Park, KS
Hampton University
Biology
Medicine
The program is growing and evolving

New faculty and staff bring diverse expertise to program.

Since January, the program has added three new staff/faculty members. In January, Caleb Marsh joined as Assistant Director, bringing more than 15 years of pre-professional health advising experience to the program. Then in April and May, Deneen Ciancaglini and Deborah Stull joined as Enrollment Specialist and Associate Director/Writing Specialist/Practice Assistant Professor in Biology, helping to expand on the expertise of Catherine Fair, Associate Director and Learning Skills Specialist, Robert-André Rarig, Associate Director and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Instruction, and Grace M Hershman, Associate Vice Dean and Program Director.

Medical faculty come to teach on Main Campus

Starting this fall, students will receive instruction from members of the faculty of Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine on Main Campus, increasing the cohesiveness of the program for the students. Toby K. Eisenstein and Marion Chan will teach Cellular and Molecular Basis of Immunology and Microbiology and Ronald F. Tuma will teach Physiology.

BCHS students volunteer with Prevention Point

On Saturday, September 8, 2018, BCHS students volunteered at Prevention Point helping to provide harm reduction services.

Pictured (left to right): Mathew Grubman, Alyssa Strassburg, Paul Callahan, Jina Louis, and Byron Udegbe.