Director’s Message

Celebrating Resilience

I have directed the CST post baccalaureate program for five years, but this year, by far, is the most notable.

COVID-19 reached around the world and into all of our lives. Post baccalaureate students, like our faculty and staff, rose to the occasion with resilience and composure. Each rallied to get through the 2020 spring semester when the spread of the coronavirus meant all Temple University classes would move online.

It is said we are defined by our actions. Our students, faculty, staff and our alumni demonstrated their commitment, adaptability and perseverance in a reimagined environment.

Let the uncertainties and challenges of the pandemic motivate us to continue to celebrate resilience and let our actions reflect our commitment to both each other and to making a better tomorrow.

Please continue to stay healthy, safe and connected to the CST post baccalaureate program.

Grace Hershman
Associate Vice Dean and Program Director
CST Post Baccalaureate Pre-Health Program

postbac.cst.temple.edu

Staying strong during COVID-19

The decision to move classes online and close the campus definitely changed the way that we conducted business. But it was business as (the new) normal. Our faculty stepped up, moving classes and labs online quickly and efficiently. And we continued to meet—through Zoom—with current students and to interview applicants for our 2020-2021 class. But it was our students who really rose to the occasion, recognizing the seriousness of the situation while staying focused on their coursework and their applications. We thank everyone for their efforts.

Above: Post-bacc faculty meeting hosted by Professor Robert-André Rarig to discuss transitioning to remote learning
Below: Virtual workshop (the new normal) hosted by Dean Grace Hershman
Our alumni have been accepted at schools in 25 states, the District of Columbia, and the Caribbean. We are thrilled to have alumni accepted to dental school and podiatric medical school, in addition to medical, physician assistant and pharmacy school. Congratulations to all!

**ALABAMA**
- Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

**ARKANSAS**
- Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine

**ARIZONA**
- Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University*
- AT Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona*

**CALIFORNIA**
- California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine*
- California Northstate University College of Medicine
- Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
- UCLA/Drew Medical College
- Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific*

**CARIBBEAN**
- American University of the Caribbean
- Ross School of Medicine

**COLORADO**
- University of Colorado School of Medicine

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
- Howard University College of Medicine

**FLORIDA**
- Miller School of Medicine – University of Miami
- Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- University of Tampa – Master of Physician Assistant Medicine Program
- USF Health Morsani College of Medicine*

**GEORGIA**
- PCOM Georgia*
- PCOM South Georgia*

**ILLINOIS**
- Rush Medical College at Rush University
- University of Illinois College of Medicine

**KENTUCKY**
- University of Kentucky College of Medicine
- University of Louisville School of Medicine*

**MARYLAND**
- University of Maryland*

**MASSACHUSETTS**
- Boston University School of Medicine*
- Tufts University School of Medicine*
- University of Massachusetts Medical School

**MICHIGAN**
- Wayne State University School of Medicine
- Michigan State University College of Human Medicine*

**MISSOURI**
- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

**NEBRASKA**
- Creighton University School of Medicine

**NEVADA**
- Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine

**NEW JERSEY**
- Rowen University School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Rutgers New Jersey Medical School*

**NEW YORK**
- Albany Medical College*
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine*
- New York College of Podiatric Medicine*
- New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
- SUNY Downstate College of Medicine
- Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
- University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry*

**OHIO**
- Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine*
- University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences*
- Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine*

**PENNSYLVANIA**
- Drexel University School of Medicine
- Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
- Jefferson University College of Pharmacy
- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Lewis Katz School of Medicine – Temple University
- Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Physician Assistant Program - Temple University*
- Maurice H Kornberg School of Dentistry - Temple University*
- Penn State College of Medicine
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Philadelphia College of Pharmacy
- Sidney Kimmel Medical College - Thomas Jefferson University
- Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
- University of South Carolina School of Medicine

**TENNESSEE**
- Meharry Medical College

**TEXAS**
- Paul L Foster School of Medicine
- Texas Tech Medical School
- University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine*
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

**UTAH**
- Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine*

**WASHINGTON**
- Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

**WEST VIRGINIA**
- West Virginia University School of Osteopathic Medicine

*Students accepted for the first time during 2019-2020 cycle
Year in Review

For most of the year, it was business as usual on campus, but everyone adapted quickly when COVID-19 struck.

In the fall and first half of the spring, students enjoyed on-campus events such as orientation (including a campus-wide scavenger hunt), guest lectures, information sessions with healthcare professionals and social events, including a holiday celebration in beautiful Mitten Hall.

Alumni news... Congratulations to everyone!

Asra Khan (ACHS '16), pictured at her white coat ceremony, married in April 2019, and is now thrilled to be finishing her first year at the University of Tampa’s Master’s in Physician Assistant Medicine program in St. Petersburg, Fla.

After successfully completing his first year of medical school at Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces, N.M., Auggie Herber (ACHS '17) looks forward to collaborating on two research projects this summer, planning his fall wedding and studying for boards.

This summer, Anthony Vu (ACHS '17) is a pharmacy student intern at CHOP before heading back to Jefferson College of Pharmacy for his second year. Noah Klein (BCHS '17) will also be at Jefferson this fall, in his first year of medical school at Sidney Kimmel Medical College - Thomas Jefferson University.

Sierra Derti (CST ’17; ACHS ’18) is a clinical research assistant at Weill Cornell Medicine and has been working on a phase 3 trial of remdesivir, a promising COVID-19 treatment. Look for an article from her lab in the New England Journal of Medicine. Sam Kidd (BCHS ’18) has also been working hard this year as a phlebotomist at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital.

Sarah Finocchiaro (CLA ’17; BCHS ’18), recipient of the Helen Fuld Health Scholarship and Dean of Nursing Scholarship, started the accelerated BSN program at Villanova. Also remaining in Philadelphia is Tyler Johnson (BCHS ’18), who starts medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine this fall.

Heading west is Cori Fine (ACHS ’18) and Bud Kheir (ACHS ’18). Cori, excited to attend a community-service-oriented program, is heading to the College of Dental Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, Cal. Bud is moving to Arizona to attend Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine - Arizona.

After interviewing at eight schools, Ayobami Adebayo (ACHS '18), pictured, will attend Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Maya Holmes (ACHS ’18) is heading to Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland and Jason Kim (ACHS ’18) will, when he graduates in 2024, be part of the inaugural DO class at California Health Sciences University in Clovis, Cal.

Ada Ng (ACHS ’19) recently started a job as a COVID-19 tracer. Cain Dudek (BCHS ’19) welcomed son Theodore Michael Dudek on June 5, 2020, and Tina Yerdon (ACHS ’19), after being accepted to both Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM), decided to attend NYCPM.

Congratulations to everyone! And we hope to keep hearing from all of you.
Faculty win teaching awards

Congratulations to Robert-André Rarig for being named a 2019 recipient of the Temple University College of Science and Technology Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award and the 2019 recipient of the Provost’s Award for Teaching Excellence in GenEd and to Kathleen Giangiacomo for receiving of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine’s Educational Excellence in PA/POSTBAC/UBTH Award.

The post-bacc program continues to grow

This year, the program welcomed two new faculty members, Olena Mishchuk, who taught Basic Core Introduction to Biology for Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureates labs, and Uloma Opara-Osuoha, who taught the newly introduced labs for Human Anatomy (taken by ACHS pre-PAs and pre-dents) and Fundamentals of Physiology (taken by ACHS pre-PAs).

The program also welcomed three new members to the Advisory Board: Michele O’Connor, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at Temple University, Bethann Mercanti, Director of Clinical Operations at Cooper Neurological Institute, and Francine Sandrow, Acting Chief Informatics Officer, VHA Office of Community Care and emergency medicine physician at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Philadelphia.

The post-bacc team gets a home

Prior to the Temple University campus closure due to coronavirus restrictions, we were in the process of moving the entire post-bacc leadership team to a newly renovated space in the Bio-Life Building, which some of our students had a chance to visit on March 13, 2020, the last day of in-person classes. We look forward to unveiling our completed space and hosting an open house for everyone, including students, alumni, and faculty, when social distance rules allow.

For more news, go to postbac.cst.temple.edu