



# Saginaw E-Newsletter

AUGUST 1, 2007

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 8

## Welcome New Students!

*"Happiness is spiritual, born of truth and love. It is unselfish; therefore it cannot exist alone, but requires all mankind to share it".*

*-Mary Baker Eddy*

*This newsletter contains:*

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**Left to Right:** Neil Malhotra, Dennis Montoya, Alisha Floyd, Peter Byers (back), Elizabeth Asai-Egle, Jonathon Egle, Nathan Woolsey, Lisa McElroy and Sean Paul.

**Neil Malhotra** – Hometown Owosso, MI. BS, Anthropology, University of Michigan. Neil has worked as a pharmacy technician and a medical transcriptionist. As an undergraduate, he volunteered at Barat Child & Family Services as a tutor for teenage girls removed from abusive and/or neglectful home situations. Neil also volunteered with Arbor Hospice & Home Care, for World Service Team, as an Alternative Spring Break site leader, and at a number of one-day service events through SPARK (Students Promoting Awareness, Reflection & Knowledge). Neil's hobbies include reading, tennis, hockey, history, and politics. Neil is fascinated with the social and public health consequences of emerging infectious diseases.

**Dennis Montoya** – Hometown Miami, FL. BS, Microbiology, University of Florida. As an undergraduate, Dennis served as a teaching assistant for a microbiology lab. He also conducted molecular biology research on mammalian nervous system protein 140-3-3. At the National Institutes of Health, Dennis conducted biochemical HIV-1 research, handling the live virus at biological safety level 2. While at the NIH, he volunteered as a Spanish interpreter for the NIH Clinical Center. Dennis played four years of high school football at Miami-Dade County's Coral Gables Senior High; his former teammates include Jonathon Vilma of the New York Jets and Antonio Bryant of the Cleveland Browns. Dennis also loves to surf.

**Alisha Floyd** – Hometown Rancho Cucamonga, CA. BA, Anthropology, Northwestern University. Alisha has volunteered at Chicago Children's Memorial Hospital and with second and third graders at San Antonio Elementary School. She has worked as a substitute teacher, a tutor in English and math, a substitute health assistant, and a reference assistant at the Northwestern University Library. Alisha was an executive board

member at Northwestern's Women's Residential College and a recording secretary for One Step Before, a minority premed group. She enjoys singing, and was a soprano in the Northwestern Community Ensemble gospel choir and a choir member at the New Jerusalem Church.

**Peter Byers** – Hometown Prior Lake, MN. BA, Philosophy & Religion, American University. For two years, Peter lived in a small village in Camaroon, serving as a math/science education volunteer with the US Peace Corps, teaching a variety of subjects to student teachers seeking to become certified primary school teachers. Some of his other volunteer experiences include serving with the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Leech Lake Ambulance Service. At Camp Unistar in Cass Lake, Peter worked as an assistant director, waterfront director, and associate camp director. He also served as operations manager at Baobab Beachpackers Inc., a resort in Vilanculos, Mozambique. Peter is very excited to travel to and experience the medical cultural of Costa Rica.

**Elizabeth 'Libby' Egle** – Hometown Portland, OR. BS, Biology, University of Oregon. During college, Libby worked full time as an intern with Campus Crusade for Christ, as well as being involved in leadership with her church group. For her senior thesis, Libby performed a year of research in molecular genetics. Prior to matriculating at CHM, she served as an AmeriCorps volunteer at Volunteers in Medicine. Libby loves to travel, and studied abroad for a year in Scotland. She also enjoys playing frisbee, running, hiking, camping, and snowshoeing. Libby recently married fellow third year medical student Jonathan Egle whom she met at CHM. She and Jonathan both have a dream to increase access to care for the underinsured in the US and overseas.

**Jonathan Egle** – Hometown Dearborn Heights, MI. BS, Biology, University of Michigan. At U of M, Jonathon performed research on the effects of experimental substances on involuntary muscle contractions affecting heart rate and locomotion. He has worked as a lab assistant, emergency room transportation aide, web page consultant, and customer service representative. Jonathan volunteered in the surgical waiting room at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center, for the Humane Society of Huron Valley, and as webmaster and political consultant for a local school board candidate. For two years, Jonathan acted in various capacities for the student-run theatre group, the RC Players, programming and running lights, building sets, and doing sound. He also served as webmaster and student advocate for PIRGIM (Public Interest Research Group in Michigan), a U of M student activist group. Jonathan recently married fellow third year medical student Libby Asai whom he met at CHM. He and Libby both have a dream to increase access to care for the underinsured in the US and overseas.

**Nathan Woolsey** – Hometown Groveland, CA. BS, Biology, Pepperdine University. Nathan spent two years working at Amgen manufacturing Neupogen, a cancer drug that increases WBC count in patients. He also worked for a year at Baxter Bioscience manufacturing Factor VIII, a replacement clotting protein for hemophiliacs. Nathan conducted field research in Costa Rica on behavioral effects of UV exposure on poison dart frogs (*Dendrobates pumilio* sp.). Nathan volunteered in the emergency rooms of Verdugo Hills and Foothill Presbyterian Hospitals. He enjoys basketball, running, golf, weight lifting, skiing, reading novels, and anything you can do in the ocean.

**Lisa McElroy** – Hometown: Chicago, IL. BS, Chemistry, The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. Lisa has worked as a Pediatric Medical Assistant, an Executive Director of a non-profit organization. She has also volunteered with a crisis hotline. She enjoys music, movies, theater, acrylic painting, mosaic art and photography. She traveled to Mexico during her undergraduate years for 6 weeks.

**Sean Paul** – Hometown Davis, CA. BA, Psychology and BA, Spanish, University of California Davis. For the past two years, Sean has worked as a research technician at the Scripps Research Institute. As a translator for International Relief Teams, Sean traveled bimonthly to La Clinica Esperanza in Colonia Nuevo Aroura, where he assisted a retired internist and an OB/GYN, primarily by translating lab results and diagnoses to the patients and their questions to the internist. He has served as a Spanish instructor, a math tutor, and a marketing director. Sean is interested in preventative medicine, HIV/AIDS, international medicine, health disparities, and glycomics. He enjoys mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, yoga, museums, foreign and independent films, percussion and books.

## Core Competency Information

August Core Competency schedule is as follows:

8/01/07 – No Core Comp session; Group 1 Spanish class – rm. 410

8/08/07 – No Core Comp session; Group 1 Spanish class – rm. 410

8/15/07 – The Virtuous Physician, Dr. Wagner – rm. 410

8/22/07 – MSU Library Electr. Resources in the Comm., Dr. John Coffey – rm. 410

8/29/07 – No Core Comp session; Spanish 2pm-3:50pm – Library Conference Room

## USMLE Update...

At its June 2007 meeting, the USMLE Step 2 Committee raised the minimum passing requirements for Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Step 2 Clinical Skills.

Details can be found on the USMLE website at <http://www.usmle.org/news/step2minpass2007.htm>.

### Change in Minimum Passing Requirements for Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills

As stated in the USMLE Bulletin of Information and as explained in a previous posting to the USMLE website, the level of proficiency required to meet the recommended minimum passing level for each USMLE Step examination is reviewed periodically and may be adjusted at any time. Notice of such review and any adjustments are posted at the USMLE website.

At its June 2007 meeting, the Step 2 Committee conducted such a review for both USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Clinical Skills (CS). During the meeting, the Step 2 Committee considered information from multiple sources, including: 1) recommendations from independent groups of physicians who have participated in content-based standard-setting activities in 2007; 2) results of surveys of various groups (e.g., state licensing representatives, medical school faculty, samples of examinees) concerning the appropriateness of current pass/fail standards for Step examinations; 3) trends in examinee performance; and 4) score precision and its effect on the pass/fail decision. The results of the review are listed below. Because there are no reported scores for Step 2 CS, the decisions of the Step 2 Committee for that component of Step 2 are reflected in terms of potential impact on examinees using data from recent administrations.

#### Step 2 CK

The Step 2 Committee decided to raise the three-digit score recommended to pass Step 2 CK from 182 to 184. The new minimum passing score will be applied to Step 2 CK examinations for which the first day of testing is on or after July 1, 2007.

#### Step 2 CS

The Step 2 Committee decided to increase the performance levels required to receive a passing outcome on two of the three Step 2 CS subcomponents: Communication and Interpersonal Skills (CIS) and Spoken English Proficiency (SEP). There will be no change to minimum passing requirements for the Integrated Clinical Encounter (ICE) subcomponent of Step 2 CS. If these increases in the performance levels required to pass were applied to a recent group of first-time examinees, the overall passing rate for examinees from US schools would have decreased less than one percent and the overall passing rate for examinees from international medical schools would have decreased approximately eight percent. The new passing requirements will be applied to Step 2 CS examinations for which the first day of testing is on or after July 15, 2007.

## CHM Update...

We are very pleased to announce the inaugural edition of the CHM Research Newsletter. Click on the following link and enjoy this new monthly opportunity for communicating research news to you. [Click here for the first issue of the CHM Research Newsletter!](#) We need to hear your opinions, suggestions, and news to include in upcoming issues. Please send feedback to [chmresearch@ht.msu.edu](mailto:chmresearch@ht.msu.edu).

We encourage you to sign up for the CHM Research Listserv which already has over 300 subscribers. This is an important research communication tool for faculty, residents, students, and others that can connect all of us across the campus network. Our office will increasingly use it to broadcast research announcements and news. Subscribers, like you, can post questions and research opportunities; highlight research accomplishments; request assistance; etc. Simply click on the

following link and follow the instructions for joining. <http://list.msu.edu/archives/chm-research.html>

## Absence from Clerkships...

Just a reminder that if you are absent from your clerkship, you are responsible for notifying the following people:

**Clerkship Coordinator/Secretary  
Preceptor  
Assistant Dean's Office**

Failure to contact the appropriate people is unprofessional behavior and could be reflected in your final clerkship letter. There is an excused absence request form that will need to be filled out. You have all received an electronic copy of the form. You can also contact Bridget Hinds or the appropriate clerkship administrative assistant for the form.

If you need to request time off from a clerkship, you will also need to fill out an excused absence form. This form should be submitted to the appropriate clerkship director or preceptor. All time off must be made up.

Excused or unexcused absences of more than 5 days in an 8 week clerkship or 2.5 days in a 4 week clerkship could result in the failure of the clerkship.

## ERAS Information...

### ERAS 2008 Timeline for Allopathic Schools

Date	Activity
Mid-June 2007	Schools will begin receiving Dean's Office Workstation kits (DWS) and applicants will have access to their manual online. Schools may begin generating and distributing tokens to applicants as soon as software is installed.
July 1, 2007	MyERAS Web site opens to residency applicants to begin working on their applications.
August 2007	Residency programs will begin receiving their Program Director's Workstation kits (PDWS).
September 1, 2007	Schools, ECFMG, NBME and NBOME can transmit residency supporting documents. Residency programs can begin contacting the ERAS PostOffice to download application files.
November 1, 2007	MSPEs are released at 12:01 a.m.
December 2007	Military match results are available.
January 2008	<a href="#">Urology</a> match results are available.
March 2008	<b>Scramble.</b> <a href="#">NRMP</a> Match results are available, beginning at 1pm.
May 31, 2008	ERAS Post Office will close to prepare for the 2009 season.
July 1, 2008	Residents begin their training.

Senior students are beginning the process of applying for Residency programs. Just a few pointers to assist in making this a smooth and error free process.

1. Please understand that it is not necessary that you have everything in before completing and sending your ERAS application. If you are waiting to figure out who will be writing your letters of recommendation (LOR) that is not necessary. You can go in and enter LOR's and add the names of the letter writers later, so please don't

let that hold you up.

2. If you are applying to very competitive programs you need to get your application done as soon as possible. Programs are able to begin viewing your applications on September 1<sup>st</sup>, so you should at least have your application and personal statement done by then. It may also be helpful to have one or two letters of recommendations in by then also. Be sure you find out the correct LOR requirements from each program that you are applying to. **It is your responsibility to follow up with letter writers, and confirm that LOR's reach my office in time to meet program deadlines.**

3. Do not request your transcripts until after October 1. Hopefully, all of your grades from Year III will be posted by then (check online first). I also need a photograph to scan into ERAS for you. If you would like for me to use your hospital ID photo, just let me know.

ERAS 2008 processing fees. These fees are:

1 – 10 Programs, \$60  
11-20 Programs, \$8 each  
21-30 Programs, \$15 each  
31 or more Programs, \$25 each

We suggest that you make a copy of your ERAS application for your records. This information might be useful to you if you choose to apply to a fellowship program after residency.

## Save the Date...

### EPIC Training (eCovenant Medical Records)-Year III

Part I – **Wednesday, August 15, 2007, 7pm-9:30pm** at Andersen Computer Training Room – 4<sup>th</sup> floor (behind Covenant Harrison Campus)

Part II – **Wednesday, August 29, 2007, 4pm-6:30pm** at Andersen Computer Training Room – 4<sup>th</sup> floor (behind Covenant Harrison Campus)

### Student Council Annual Silent Auction

**DATE:** Sunday, October 14, 2007

**DETAILS:** Join us in the Radiology Building for an afternoon of fun at one of the biggest fundraising events for MSU-CHM students. Such funding allows students to organize health fairs and health awareness programs, free clinics, physician discussion panels, as well as additional wellness, service and educational and educational activities.

**Contact:** Carrie Fales, (989) 501-0895, [falescar@msu.edu](mailto:falescar@msu.edu)

**Contact:** Keegan Jackson, (906) 458-4766, [jacks520@msu.edu](mailto:jacks520@msu.edu)

**Contact:** Meaghan Misiacz, (269) 492-8513, [misiaczm@msu.edu](mailto:misiaczm@msu.edu)



Please join us in wishing a happy and prosperous birthday to the following CHM Students:

Sean Paul	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
Rehab Abdel-Kariem	August 16 <sup>th</sup>

# August 2007

MSU/CHM Saginaw  
Campus

Synergy Medical  
Education Alliance

1000 Houghton  
Saginaw, MI 48602

(989) 583-6960

(989) 583-6933

(989) 583-6945 Fax

We're on the Web!

[www.synergymedical.org](http://www.synergymedical.org)

MSU/CHM Saginaw  
Campus Staff

Dr. Rae Schnuth,  
Assistant Dean

[Rae.Schnuth@msu.edu](mailto:Rae.Schnuth@msu.edu)

Bridget Y. Hinds,  
Community  
Administrator

[bhinds@synergymedical.org](mailto:bhinds@synergymedical.org)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					FM Oral Exam/PBA	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Student Meeting rm. 410 2pm		Psych ends	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					IM/FM ends	