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About MSM

Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), located in Atlanta, Ga., was founded in 1975 as the Medical Education Program at Morehouse College. In 1981, MSM became an independently chartered institution. MSM is among the nation's leading educators of primary care physicians and was recently recognized as the top institution among U.S. medical schools for our social mission. Our faculty and alumni are noted in their fields for excellence in teaching, research and public policy. MSM is accredited by the ACCME, ACGME, LCME, SACS, and Council on Education for Public Health.

Community Value

- MSM ranked #1 in social mission, a role emphasized as critical to improving the country's overall health care
- MSM has been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) for leadership in primary care training
- The National Center for Primary Care of MSM serves as a national resource in promoting the value of primary care medicine and encouraging doctors to pursue primary care careers. It conducts practice-based research to improve health outcomes; creates protocols and tools for improving primary care effectiveness; and undertakes public policy analyses focused on making primary care services more accessible and effective.



MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Alumni Learning Community

Volume 1, Issue 1
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Alumni Learning Community
(Highlighting our
Columbus Learning Community)

UPDATES FROM THE MSM ALUMNI LEARNING COMMUNITY OF WEST GEORGIA

We're glad you're here.

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for students, volunteers, community partners and supporters of the MSM Alumni Learning Community! In this inaugural issue, we will highlight our Columbus Learning Community site. In upcoming issues, we'll highlight other sites. We'll share the exciting developments taking place in Columbus and surrounding areas as we work together to improve the health and well-being of our communities, increase diversity in the medical field, and combat the staggering health care provider shortage projected by 2020. Whether you are a student, alumnus/volunteer, school or community partner, we're excited to make a difference with you. Thanks for giving back.

A part of something great.

Morehouse School of Medicine alumni are accepting the charge of President and Dean, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice to extend the institution's educational outreach. By engaging colleagues in health care, hospitals, schools, and community organizations, MSM alums are building networks of support for local students who have an interest in pursuing health careers.

As we face one of the most significant provider shortages in history, it is essential that we recognize, nurture, and promote local students who have a desire to pursue a career in medicine.

We are on a mission.

Morehouse School of Medicine exists to:

- Improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities
- Increase the diversity of the health professional and scientific workforce
- Address primary health care needs through programs in education, research and service

With emphasis on people of color and the underserved urban and rural populations in Georgia, the nation, and the world.



Get involved or become a mentor:

Contact Jacqueline Thrash
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TO OUR GENEROUS
CORPORATE SUPPORTERS,
THANK YOU.



A Sacred Duty: Renewing Our Commitment to Mentoring the Next Generation.

L. Joy Baker, M.D., MT (ASCP)

Looking back on my experience of six clinical rotations as a third year medical student at Morehouse School of Medicine, I remember that I sometimes felt as if I was “in the way” or “a bother” to my residents. I can remember wondering why the residents didn’t have structured plans for us, or tell us exactly what they wanted us to do. Or not do, for that matter. When I became an intern, I completely understood why. Because being a physician is hard work! There is a steep learning curve and the consequences for mistakes can be grave – literally. I now understand why many physicians choose not to become mentors or teachers. I know that most of us found ourselves scrambling to keep pace and find our feet as a newly minted physicians in residency. On top of that, we had to juggle a group of fresh-faced, eager students and junior residents with little or no clinical experience who were hot on our trails. And worse, they actually expected us to TEACH them something?!

If we carefully examine the structure and practice of medicine, we will find that each generation depends on the previous and future generation. The “seasoned” practitioners provide the experience that only time can give, while the “fresh” providers bring with them the most up-to-date discoveries and technologies. Working together, in the present, the two groups are a powerful combination.

Looking toward the future, we face an increasing shortage of health care providers in our nation.

We expect that over the next 10 years, the physician deficit will reach over 150,000.

Reaching out to the next generation of STEM students (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and nurturing their interest in health-related careers is absolutely essential. Essential to the future of our country’s health and the future of our noble profession. Mentorship and teaching must become a priority—even for those of us who are not necessarily interested in academic medicine.

“Doctor” in Latin actually means “teacher,” the Latin word for physician is “medicus.” Since our language and many others have Latin roots, it is fair to say that each time you are referred to as “Dr. _____,” you are really, in essence, being called “Teacher _____.” Effectively teaching clinical concepts, thought processes, and technical skills is not a fly-by-night sort of thing. Like all skills, some people possess a natural talent for it, but no matter how you slice it, it takes some effort to become a good teacher or mentor.

I am not a natural teacher, but I force myself to remember that the only reason I am where I am, doing what I am doing, is because someone took the time to teach me. In my OB/GYN residency, students evaluated us every two months. I started out receiving terrible evaluations. Once I made up my mind to be a better teacher and set a better example, I was recognized by students and the Arthur P. Gold Foundation for excellence in teaching. We are physicians because others trained us to do what we do. We studied the science. Ah, but the art! Much of that we learned from examples—both good and bad.

Our charge is to impart this art and science to the next generation. The dynamic new President and Dean of my alma mater, the Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., has challenged the school’s Alumni in four pilot cities to extend MSM’s mission of “Serving the Underserved” by extending our educational outreach throughout Georgia and the nation via “Alumni Learning Communities.”

The goal of the Alumni Learning Community (ALC) is to engage MSM alumni, who will then engage their colleagues in medicine, other community leaders and organizations, as well as educators to form partnerships and sponsor health career awareness activities in their respective communities. The four pilot cities are Albany, Atlanta, Columbus, and Macon. The learning community model is one that has

been successful at MSM for a number of years, and is one of the reasons why the school is nationally recognized for its excellence in social mission.

We’re off to an exciting start!

The Columbus ALC was the first to become active in early 2014. We’ve since reached nearly 200 high school and college students via events and social media; hosted our first clinical experience orientation and a shadowing experience in November/December 2014. There are 42 college and high school students actively enrolled on our 2014-2015 roster, while advisement sessions and general events (i.e., “Understanding the Changes in the MCAT,” or “Health Professional’s Panel”) are open to all students. We have formed strong relationships with Columbus State University, Three Rivers AHEC, Columbus/Ft. Benning Medical Society, and Midtown Medical Center. During our first student shadowing opportunity in December, 2014, a diverse group of physicians and other providers from all over Columbus volunteered to host 20 of our students in their private offices, at Midtown Medical Center, and at St. Francis Hospital, where these students had an inside look at an area of medicine in which they had an interest. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive from students and preceptors, and though providers were only asked to commit to one-half day sessions twice yearly, many have set times outside our program to spend mentoring their student, like Dr. Nicole Cole, Medical Director of the Columbus Regional Health Breast Center, who is planning a year-long research project with her student shadow, LaChesica Evans of CSU.

The commitment is easy for providers because the ALC handles all credentialing and orientation with the Medical Staff offices of the hospitals. Providers receive copies of their student’s documents to keep on file for future reference. All of our students must attend a mandatory orientation on professional behavior, HIPAA compliance, and observing in the clinical setting BEFORE they are allowed to observe providers in the ambulatory or hospital setting.

But we need more volunteers –

physicians and health care providers – to sustain and expand this program. We need volunteers to host students on shadowing days (usually during school breaks), become mentors, and/or sign up to be a part of our speaker database and participate in panels, advising sessions, and “Doctors Back to School” days. Commit to small or larger amounts of time as you schedule permits.

Become a mentor or volunteer.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer, please contact:

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Remember, we must teach our art and skill to those who come after us, just as we were taught. We must make the effort to educate our patients and communities appropriately as well. We are teachers whether we excel at teaching or not, whether we like it or not—it’s in the Hippocratic oath- it is our sacred duty.

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