June 18, 2015

Dear Entering Medical Students,

Welcome to OHSU! It is my great pleasure to extend greetings to you as members of the OHSU School of Medicine Class of 2019 in the newly transformed YourMD curriculum. This letter highlights a few of our orientation activities. Our orientation course, “Transition to Medical School,” is the first of many transitions you will have in your professional development.

The “Transition to Medical School” course begins on Monday, August 10th and concludes on Tuesday, August 18th. Your participation in all of the activities during this orientation course is required. We will begin on August 10th at 8:00 AM with coffee and a light continental breakfast. Following this, Senior Associate Dean for Education, George Mejicano, MD, MS will give opening remarks at 8:30 AM in the Med19 Learning Studio on the third floor of the Collaborative Life Science Building. The one and a half week program includes information about the matriculation process as well as an introduction to your classmates, the faculty, course work and general expectations. During the course, there will be opportunities for you to meet members of the medical school second year class, as well as an afternoon spent in an interprofessional educational activity with students from the Schools of Nursing and Dentistry, and the Physician Assistant Program, among others. The first week concludes with the White Coat Ceremony on Friday, August 14th where you will be honored from 10:00 AM – Noon, at the off campus location of Portland State University Stott Center. This ceremony will be a special occasion for faculty to present each entering student with their white coat symbolizing their transition to the profession of medicine. This event is also required. Each student may invite as many guests as desired to this ceremony. A reception sponsored by the School of Medicine Alumni Association follows the ceremony.

Following the Transition to Medical School course, your first block, Fundamentals, will begin on Wednesday, August 19th at 8:00 AM.

As you are beginning a professional training program, your attire should be business casual during Transition to Medical School. Please
refrain from wearing shorts, T-shirts, shirts with slogans, flip-flops, hats, tank tops, etc. Keep in mind that your photograph will be taken for the photo directory on Tuesday the 11th and formal photographs will be taken at the White Coat Ceremony.

The weekend of August 22nd and 23rd there is a class retreat sponsored by the second-year medical students and you will receive further information.

**Fall elective opportunity “Living with Life Threatening Illness”:** attached to this letter, you will find a flyer that outlines one of the elective opportunities you have in the Fall term, 2015. Because this elective requires advanced planning with enrollment information on our part, I am including the information with this letter. If you are interested in enrolling in this 2 credit elective, please go to: [http://www.tfaforms.com/376906](http://www.tfaforms.com/376906) and submit your name for consideration no later than 4:00 pm Wednesday, June 24, 2015. There are a limited number of slots available and in the event we have more interested students than capacity, we will utilize a lottery system to determine who is able to take the elective.

In a few weeks in July, I will be sending you another letter that will provide information about the **Pre-matriculation Self-Assessment and Learning modules**, and other important material for you to review prior to August 10th, so look for that soon.

If I or my staff can be of further assistance to you, please don’t hesitate to contact Shelley Engle at (503) 494-5708 or at [engles@ohsu.edu](mailto:engles@ohsu.edu). On behalf of the entire Dean’s office undergraduate medical education team, we look forward to meeting you in August.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tracy Bumsted, M.D., M.P.H
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education
School of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University
Living with Life-Threatening Illness

MS1 & MS2 Elective – 2 Credit hours – GMED705L
Course Director: David Barnard, PhD, JD
Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care, OHSU, Center for Ethics in Health Care

Course Purpose:
This interdisciplinary course introduces fundamental knowledge, attitudes, and skills for working with patients with life threatening illnesses and their families. Each student will be assigned to a patient with a life-threatening illness whom they will visit 5 times in the patient’s home. The focus of learning for the course will be the student’s ongoing relationship with this patient-teacher and his or her family. Weekly large group discussions will address patients’ and families’ experiences of suffering, caregiving, symptom control, death, loss and grief, and spiritual concerns. Weekly small group discussions will allow students to receive supervision from experienced clinicians and to reflect on personal reactions to their patient-teacher, and will help them integrate didactic material about life-threatening illness and palliative care with their patient visits. Course evaluation will be based on participation and completing a short reflection paper or good-bye letter to the patient-teacher.

Reflections from past students to their patient-teachers:
“Your experiences and stories will help me become a better physician. My time with you will impact all my future interactions with patients and for this I am forever grateful.” MS1

“I enrolled in this class because of my fear and apprehension about working with dying patients and talking about death. What I now realize is that talking about death is really just talking about life. Giving your precious time to allow me to learn from you is a gift of immeasurable magnitude.” MS2

“You have taught me that sometimes, the hardest thing a physician must learn to do is have the courage and humility to simply be human, vulnerable, and honest.” MS1

“It seems to me that while it is important for any student of health care to learn the science and technical skills that help to define the practice of medicine, it is equally important to think about how those skills are put to use in the world, and about the people that they are designed to assist and serve. You have been a wonderful teacher.” MS2

To hear a patient-teacher’s thoughts about the course: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p48GZ03zMZc&feature=youtu.be

Class meets 10 times Monday 1–3 PM, between October 5, 2015 – December 14, 2015.
ENROLLEMENT LIMIT 16 –Course no. GMED705L
For more information about this elective contact:
Course Director: David Barnard, PhD, JD barnardd@ohsu.edu  Coordinator: Margaret Jeppesen 503.494.4436 or jeppesem@ohsu.edu