



# UMED

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 \* SPRING 2007 \* NUMBER 1

## Student Perspective

**Maris Jones**

When receiving word of the UMED program upon admission to UIC, I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into. I assumed anything that would allow me to explore Chicago's urban healthcare environment more in depth would be of great benefit, given my research interests as an undergraduate and my life experiences in general. As a second year medical student, and member of the inaugural UMED class, I still am not exactly sure what UMED is all about—but that is exciting. When starting off in such a new program, there is tremendous room for students to help chart the course of what hopefully, will become a college of medicine institution. There is so much to learn from accomplished classmates, so many opportunities to take advantage of within the city of Chicago. These are the factors attracting *me* to continue striving to help define the program—the opportunities it will provide for program participants and eventually, everyone else. ///

## UMED GREEN GROUP: BACK TO SCHOOL

**Shea Suskin**

In January, the UMed Green group participated in a Martin Luther King Jr. Service project organized by Chicago Americorps members working with PCC Community Wellness program and Closing the Gap. We went to a training session held at PCC on our Monday off in preparation to visit students in Austin High School later in the week. The purpose of the outreach event was to speak to teens about their sexual health rights and options, and urge them to initiate healthcare. We set up a table in the lunchroom at the high school, and spent all 3 lunch periods that day talking to students and distributing maps and literature about local clinics, and the importance of seeking preventive healthcare to avoid the risks of teen pregnancies or STIs. The majority of the students we talked with were high school seniors, and were largely receptive to our visit. The group had a great time and looks forward to more meaningful interaction with the community through the UMed program! ///

Shannon Staley and classmates as part of the Chicago coalition for access to HIV/AIDS medications.



## Students Protest County Budget Cuts Patience Odele



The quality and quantity of healthcare to residents of Cook County is beginning to drop as a result of the proposed budget cuts. Consequently, a group of UIC Medical students were at the Cook County meeting on January 29th to support Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local Chapter 20. These students were at the meeting to protest the termination of certain health services and closure of needed clinics. In addition, the students believe that these cuts will decrease the County's deficit in the long run, but at the cost of accessible and essential healthcare services.

## UMED Student Accomplishments

Tara Brennan (M2):

**Last Summer:** Tara spent about six weeks abroad. Four of those six weeks were spent at the Hospital Clinico in Valladolid, Spain, through UIC's IFMSA program.

Akhil Narang (M2):

**Awarded:** The AMA Foundation Grant (Fund for Better Health) to help fund and promote free physical exams at the Chavez school. NIH/Society for Pediatric Research grant/fellowship

**Researched:** Worked on two projects that resulted in abstracts. One was last semester at Northwestern where Akhil worked on assessing the changes that occur to the brain using fractional anisotropy in people who have complex regional pain syndrome. Akhil also studied the feasibility of using power doppler sonography in diagnosing hemophilic synovitis as compared to MRI (where doppler is much cheaper, portable, noninvasive, and doesn't require a child to be immobilized in an MRI machine for an hour).

David Nayak (M2):

**Awarded:** Recipient of the 2006 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Summer Medical Student Fellowship Grant for the following project: "Characterize the in vitro effects of the combined activities of physiologically relevant phospholipases and eosinophil lysophospholipases on surfactant function."

Diana Pang (M2):

**Published:** *Dexamethasone decreases xenograft response to Paclitaxel through inhibition of tumor cell apoptosis.*

**Last Summer:** Worked on the effect of chronic stress on breast cancer development (using social isolation as the chronic stressor).

Yoona Rhee (M2):

**Participated:** With APAMSA to distribute educational materials to the communities and set up valuable contacts, as well as organize an educational session at UIC with the Illinois Health Education Consortium to educate and equip undergraduate students for work as community advocates.

**Last summer:** Awarded an Arnold P Gold Foundation Student Summer Fellowship. Worked with Drs Weiner and Belmonte from UIC/Lutheran General Hospital to conduct qualitative research regarding factors for obtaining government-sponsored insurance by immigrant families within the Maine East High School district.

Shannon Staley (M2):

**Awarded:** The C. Abbas Hyderi Award from the Chicago Medical Student Council for outstanding leadership and advocacy

**Special Project:** Organized a college-wide food drive for Vital Bridges, a food pantry and support center for HIV+ community members

**Last Summer:** Shannon was part of the Chicago coalition for access to HIV/AIDS medications and participated in protests against Abbott and the South African consulate. (Picture on p. 3)

**Want to share your  
accomplishments with  
fellow UMED students?  
Send us your updates!**

**[mjones28@uic.edu](mailto:mjones28@uic.edu)**

# UMED LOGO CONTEST!

Do you have winning graphical vision for the urban medicine program?  
Just some ideas? Put them in GIF or JPEG format, and submit entries to  
[mjones28@uic.edu](mailto:mjones28@uic.edu) or [sokeefe@uic.edu](mailto:sokeefe@uic.edu).

UMED Students will pick the winning logo...so start designing today!

## FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

**Direct all newsletter inquiries to:  
[mjones28@uic.edu](mailto:mjones28@uic.edu)**

**Direct all UMED program inquiries to:  
[sokeefe@uic.edu](mailto:sokeefe@uic.edu)**

## QUESTION CORNER

Where do *YOU* see UMED in the future?  
Have any ideas for future events/talks?

Make your wishes known!

Contact:  
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