UCF College of Medicine

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
✦
14 July 2025

Student Affairs Weekly Newsletter

Announcements

The COM Clinic will close on 5/23 and reopen on 7/25

Please note badge replacements will now cost $10!

Student Financial Services

The AAMC's FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) program provides free resources to help medical students make wise financial decisions: www.aamc.org/first.

Letters of Recommendation

To request a letter of recommendation (LOR) from any of the Deans (Drs. Verduin, Kibble or Smith), you must complete the LOR Request Form, found on GPS. Keep in mind, you can only request one letter from a Student Affairs Dean. Please note, you MUST attach a curriculum vitate (CV) to your LOR request. The letters are written as formal letters and as such, the form needs to be filled out completely, with the program name and address, even if it is being emailed. If the letter is to be uploaded via a link from a program, please confirm the Dean for that to be sent to. The form should be accompanied by your CV that follows the required format per the CV Toolbox along with any link to the program that provides additional information helpful in writing the letter. Information on creating your CV, along with a sample and template, can be found at the CV - Toolbox (password COMPASS2024).

Latino, Hispanic, or of Spanish Origin Identified Student Leaders in Medicine: Recognizing More Than 50 Years of Presence, Activism, and Leadership

Over the past 3 years 100s of medical students, residents, faculty and staff have worked on a book entitled Latino, Hispanic, or of Spanish Origin Identified Student Leaders in Medicine: Recognizing More Than 50 Years of Presence, Activism, and Leadership. The book highlights LHS+ individuals' activism in addressing unique health issues and disparities across the U.S. Describes the current state of LHS+ identified individuals in the physician workforce. Describes the social, cultural, and political factors that have influenced LHS+ identified individuals. Relays engaging stories on LHS+ identified individuals' pursuit of medical careers. The book is a part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Series. Through financial donations from the AAMC, learners, faculty, and staff the book is open access and can be accessed for FREE via the following link - https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-35020-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

UCF COM On-Line Uniform Ordering

Log In:

1. Visit https://shop.scrubsnstuff.com or scan QR Code
2. Click on the 'Group Sign In' button
3. Enter password – UCFCOM (not case sensitive)

Ordering:

1. Select the style jacket you wish to review or purchase
2. Select size and quantity, then add to cart
    a. Pricing shown does not include logo embroidery. Required logo embroidery and cost is automatically added to cart with item.
    b. There is a separate item to add to cart for adding 1 line of embroidery to jacket on opposite chest
3. To finalize purchase, click 'Checkout' button
4. Create a login by entering an email address and creating a password
5. Select shipping method and complete shipping information
6. Complete payment information
7. Review order and place order

You will receive an email confirmation upon placing your order

Optional Embroidery – To Add Name to Opposite Chest of Lab Jacket, Please Add Embroidery Item To Cart And Complete Form

Contact Us By Email At CustomerService@scrubsnstuff.com

Submission Opportunities & Industry Events

2025 Pacific Coast Radiology Exposition

The Radiology Student Interest Groups at UC Davis School of Medicine and California Northstate University are excited to announce the **Fourth Annual Pacific Coast Radiology Exposition,** held in collaboration with the UC Davis Department of Radiology! The symposium will have both in-person and virtual components. Please note that the in-person segment this year will be held the *day before* the virtual session.

This event will be a great opportunity to learn about the fascinating fields of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology. There will be content geared towards all years of medical students. Come meet residents, faculty, and program directors across the West Coast, including UC Davis, as well as Stanford, University of Washington, and more!
Registration is FREE and can be completed here. Please make sure you register using your school's (.edu) email address. We will send out the Zoom link a few days prior to the event.

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025
9 am - 3:30 pm PST
Virtual
Zoom
Case reports, hands-on ultrasound experiences, social with UCD radiology faculty and residents
Lectures & panels on Women in Radiology, resident discussions, Program Director Q&As, and more!

Clinical Orthopaedic Society
2025 Annual Meeting

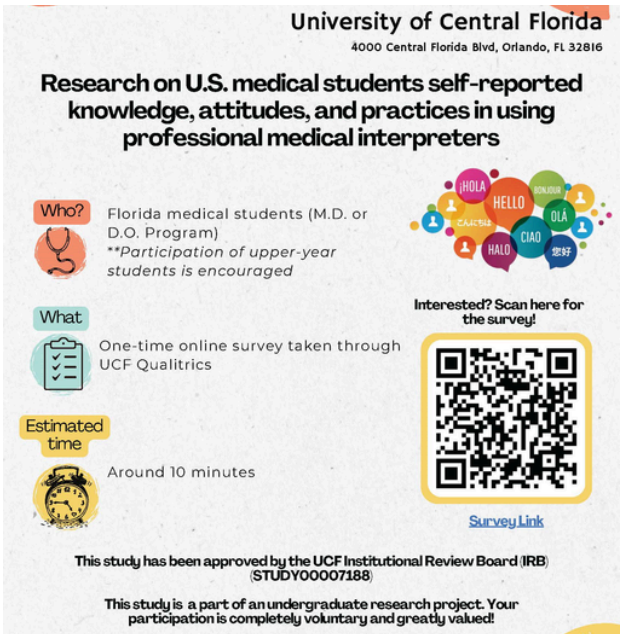
FIRE+ Program

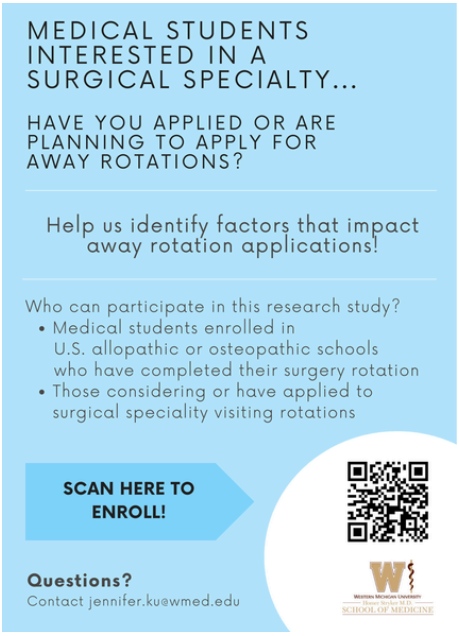
The Focused Individualized Research Experience-Plus (FIRE+) Program was created in order to support medical student research projects that fall outside and beyond the FIRE curriculum. This Program aims to provide support, management, oversight, and tracking of student research projects and endeavors. The FIRE+ intent is to bring these students and projects under one structured program to ensure appropriate research guidance and support so that research quality, safety, and integrity are maintained and can be evaluated for a sustainable and successful scholarly endeavor.

Any research and scholarly activity performed by medical students OTHER THAN RESEARCH RELATED TO THE M1/M2 FIRE CURRICULUM is required to be included in FIRE+. New research projects outside of the FIRE curriculum in M1/M2, continuity of the FIRE project in M3/M4 years, or independent research as extracurricular activity must be approved by FIRE+. After submission of a brief in-take form, FIRE+ projects will be reviewed to ensure quality and rigor with the anticipation that the project can be publishable in peer-reviewed journals and presentable in national/international professional conferences.

Link: https://redcap.link/FIRE-Plus

Surveys & Studies





Nova Southeastern University Attitudes towards Emergency Medicine Study

We are conducting a study to investigate U.S. Medical Students' Attitudes towards Emergency Medicine. We encourage you to fill out this survey regardless of your interest in Emergency Medicine. It is important to gather this information to help us understand the large volume of unfilled Emergency Medicine Residency spots in recent years. We are asking you to complete a one-time, anonymous 3-5 minute survey. This research study involves minimal risk to you. You can decide not to participate in this research, and it will not be held against you. You can exit the survey at any time. Participation will have no effect on your grades or standing in your academic program. There is no cost for participation in this study. Participation is voluntary and no compensation is provided. This study has been exempted and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Nova Southeastern University (NSU-IRB Protocol Number 2023-309).

Survey Link

ADHD USMLE Accommodations Survey

We are conducting a research study focusing on the experiences of medical students with ADHD who have applied for accommodations through the USMLE. As medical students, educators, and advocates, we recognize the importance of providing equal opportunities and support for individuals with ADHD who are pursuing a career in medicine. The purpose of this study is to gather firsthand accounts of the challenges, successes, and overall experiences of medical students with ADHD in applying for and receiving accommodations for USMLE testing. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and covers topics related to previous experiences in receiving accommodations, challenges faced, accommodations sought with the USMLE and the impact on academic performance. Participation is voluntary and responses are confidential. Your participation is highly appreciated and will help improve support for medical students with ADHD and potentially help pave the way for students with disabilities as a whole!

Survey Link

UL Residency Application Survey

University of Louisville researchers believe your voice matters! Help us understand how the current political climate and election results are shaping residency specialty and program choices for medical students like you. Survey will only take 5 minutes.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/medpolitics

Surveys & Studies Cont.

Differences in perceived vs personal treatment plans for common acute complaints: An experimental vignette study

The objective of this study is to investigate how perceived and personal health treatment plans differ between healthcare providers of different specialties and education levels.
To participate, you must be: 18 years or older, A UCF student, faculty, or staff member (including residents and fellows), Affiliated with healthcare (medicine, nursing, PA, etc.), Have ongoing clinical experience in your curricular studies or work experience. Further details about the study are attached in this email and are also located on the first page of the survey. If you meet the above criteria and would like to participate, please find the survey links below:
Survey Link

Soft Skills in STEM (SSS) Survey

By completing the survey, you will rate your own soft skills and if you wish to include your email address in the survey, we will share the report of what soft skills the participating companies are seeking. You will also receive suggestions on how you can improve the soft skills you feel you are lacking in to be as prepared for industry as possible!
You can access the survey here.
Please participate to learn how you can continue developing strong soft skills that can help you get your dream job and to receive insight from the participating companies! Thank you.

Medical Student Study on Substance use and Addiction

Currently, there is minimal data in the literature regarding what U.S. medical students know about substances of use and misuse beyond alcohol and marijuana. With approval of this exempt study through Phoenix Children's Hospital's IRB in Arizona, our study therefore seeks to address gaps in knowledge and gain an updated perspective of how substance use and addiction impact U.S. medical students. We strive to investigate the availability of substance use and mental health support programs for medical students regionally across the U.S. as well as students' current knowledge of such programs.
The survey is comprised of 33 questions and should take no longer than 10 minutes. We will also be offering voluntary participation in a random draw for twenty $50 gift cards at the completion of data collection. Interested participants will be offered the opportunity to share their email information after submitting their survey responses in such a way that preserves the anonymous status of their survey responses. The link for the survey is https://redcap.link/e0oqodya

Annual US Medical School Survey

The goal of this report is to provide medical schools with extensive insight into the current core values and preferences of our nation's medical and pre-med students, allowing for programs to foster an environment that appeals not only to their current students, but to pre-med students deciding on which med schools they'll be applying to for the upcoming fiscal application cycle. This report will fill in the gaps that the annual LCME survey metrics don't address, ensuring that programs are able to appeal to both students and prospective applicants to the highest degree.
Survey Link: MedEd Scorecard Survey

Residency Program Sessions & Other Opportunities

AMA Foundation Leadership Development Institute - Applications Open

Applications for the 2024-25 Leadership Development Institute are now open! The program cultivates a diverse cohort of aspiring physician leaders who are committed to serving the needs of their communities and improving our nation's health. The institute is open to medical students entering their final year of school and provides professional development and mentorship to those who are selected. Click here to apply today and cultivate your skills as a future leader in medicine!

Manatee Memorial Hospital Fair

Graduate Medical Education | Manatee Memorial Hospital

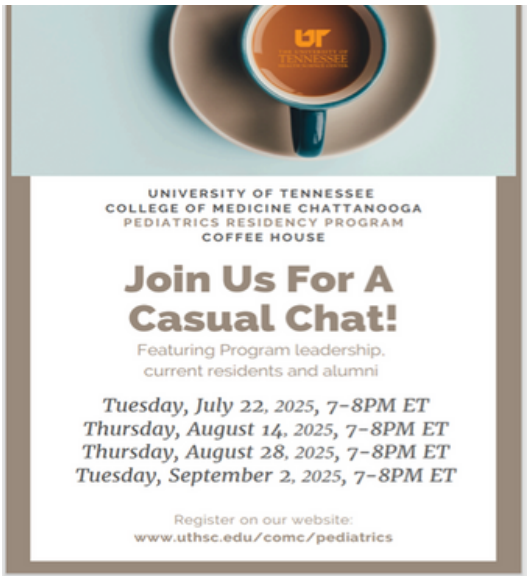
$10,000 grand prize at the largest, nationally recognized research event for medical students, residents, and IMGs

Submit an abstract to the AMA Research Challenge for the opportunity to showcase your research, enhance your CV, and win a $10,000 grand prize presented by Laurel Road. Submission is free for AMA members. The deadline is July 16. Learn more or submit an abstract at ama-assn.org/researchchallenge.

UCF College of Medicine/Department of Veteran Affairs Teleurgent Care Selective

Are you looking for a 4th year selective that is educational, fun, cutting edge, AND possible from the comfort of your own home???? Check out the UCF College of Medicine/Department of Veteran Affairs Teleurgent Care Selective. This rotation is designed to provide you with insights into the specialty of Telemedicine, specifically Teleurgent Care. You will be introduced to key concepts, competencies, and applications of telemedicine as a method to deliver quality medical care. This selective also meets your ICU/emergency medicine requirement.

No matter what specialty you decide to pursue, telemedicine will be a part of your future practice. Get ahead of the future of medicine with this selective! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Lindsey Elmes (Lindsey.Elmes@va.gov) or Dr. Veronica Sikka (Veronica.Sikka@va.gov). Both Drs. Elmes and Sikka are Emergency Medicine trained and boarded physicians who practice telemedicine full time from home. If you're interested in scheduling availability, please reach out to mdclinicalscheduling@ucf.edu



University of Tennessee Chattanooga Pediatrics

YOU MUST BE Registered to participate!

Use the link to register beforehand: Click Here

Volunteer Opportunties

Conversations to Remember

Conversations to Remember, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, dedicated towards combating loneliness and isolation felt by senior citizens. Our virtual visit program matches 2-3 college students with residents of long-term care, assisted living, and memory care communities for virtual video visits. These residents have been suffering from isolation, and your call could really brighten their days just by speaking with them. We provide training to the students in the program about the best ways to interact with the seniors, as well as additional support throughout their service. Typically, students volunteer 1-2 hours per week. Each call lasts up to one hour, based on the senior's attention span and mood on each day. We expect students to volunteer for approximately 16 weeks, so that they can build a friendship with the senior. This does not need to coincide with the start of a semester, as we have new seniors starting all the time, and train new volunteers weekly. The students are matched based on the times that they're available, with a senior who is available at the same time, and they will have a regular, weekly appointment for their visit. Students wishing for more visits or other opportunities that allow them to volunteer more hours can be accommodated with different ways to volunteer, such as assisting us with our social media, call support, or outreach.
https://conversationstoremember.org

Central Florida Special Olympics Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the link below for volunteer opportunities with the Central Florida Special Olympics!
Click here for opportunities!

Do you have an approved volunteer opportunity you need to recruit for? Or an event that needs promoted? Please email the details to Brooke Vercheski for it to be added to the weekly newsletter!

BROOKE VERCHESKI	BROOKE.VERCHESKI@UCF.EDU

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!