Saint James School of Medicine, St. Vincent would like to give a very special thank you to the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves for honoring us as the guest speaker at our fall 2016 White Coat Ceremony.
Dr. Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, who has been Prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines since March 2001, took time out of his busy schedule to congratulate the MD4 class during their White Coat Ceremony. The White Coat Ceremony has been a tradition of SJSM since its inception and it signifies the right of passage for students finishing their Basic Science courses and transitioning to the Clinical Sciences after successfully completing four semesters on the island. This is celebrated on both of SJSM’s campuses in Anguilla and St. Vincent around the same time.

The ceremony took place in one of the island’s historic landmarks, The Kingstown Methodist Church Hall. It was an evening filled with great speakers, the presentation of the White Coats, awards, great music and amazing food. Students celebrated the evening with their classmates, family, faculty and staff.

We would like to congratulate the MD4 class of St. Vincent and Anguilla for their successful completion of the Basic Science portion of their education and wish them all the best in Clinical Sciences and beyond.

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New NBME Computer Testing Center

By Joseph Chavez

In order to facilitate the NBME examination program which was officially implemented in Fall 2016, SJSM has opened a brand new computer testing center on the Anguilla campus. The center is currently equipped with 60 testing stations and will be expanded to seat more in the future.

Plans for a similar testing center on the St. Vincent campus are currently underway and the center will be opened in mid-2017.
USMLE Step 1 Pass Guarantee

By Danielle Xiang

Over the years, SJSM has strived to improve its program and curriculum to ensure the success of its students. Recently, SJSM implemented new NBME pre-qualification testing, and since this implementation, achieved a 100% pass rate on the USMLE Step 1.

We are confident that by following our program, students will be able to successfully complete the USMLE Step 1. We’re so confident, we recently announced a GUARANTEE that students will pass the USMLE STEP 1 examination on the first attempt or the school will pay for a private review program of the student’s choice, up to $5,000.

Science Foundation Super-Computer

Medical research and data gathering are critical to the advance of medicine. Recently, our very own Dr. Damuni was awarded time on the National Science Foundation’s super-computer to run three-dimensional modeling simulations for his project, Molecular dynamics simulation of protein phosphatase 2A(PP2A) and inhibitor 2 of protein phosphatase 2A(I2PP2A) involved in acute myeloid leukemia: General dynamics and the effect of changing physiological conditions on their interactions. This is an incredible opportunity for Saint James to actively contribute to the fight against leukemia.

The review panel making the recommendation to support Dr. Damuni’s work, oversees the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE). “XSEDE is the most advanced, powerful, and robust collection of integrated advanced digital resources and services in the world. It is a single virtual system that scientists can use to interactively share computing resources, data, and expertise.”

According to XSEDE, the five-year, $121-million project is supported by the National Science Foundation. It replaces and expands on the NSF TeraGrid project, which enables more than 10,000 scientists to complete thousands of research projects, at no personal cost.

Dr. Sushil Sharma Invited to Lecture in 2016

Recently, Dr. Sushil Sharma, Professor of Pharmacology at the Saint James School of Medicine, St Vincent was invited to present a lecture entitled “Charnoly Body as a Novel Biomarker of Zika Virus-Induced Microcephaly”. He also presented a poster entitled “Clinical Significance of Disease-Specific CBs in AD and other Neurodegenerative Diseases” along with MD students of the Saint James School of Medicine at the Drug Discovery & Therapy World Congress (DDTWC-2016) in the Hynes Veterans Memorial Conference Center in Boston on August 21-25, 2016.

Dr. Sharma was also invited to the 20th International Conference on Functional Foods in Health & Disease in the Joseph D Martin Conference Center at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA on September 22-23, 2016. He presented a lecture entitled “Charnoly Body as a Biomarker of Nutritional Stress in Alzheimer’s Disease”. He was awarded certificates of attendance and participation in these international conferences. Recently, he has been selected to the Editorial Board of the Journal “Nanomedicine & Nanotechnology” and as a consulting Editor in the Journal “Clinical Pharmacology, Advances and Applications”. He has also been selected as a member of the American Reproductive Society and Academic Society of Functional Foods in Health & Disease (USA).
Retrospective on 2016 Open Houses

During 2016, the SJSM admissions team visited many cities all over the US and Canada to host informational sessions and meet incoming students. The team was able to host open houses in Chicago, Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington DC, Houston, Dallas, New York City, Detroit, Orlando, Atlanta and even a live online webcast for those we weren’t able to visit in person. We were also able to stop by a few health fairs, like the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate and Professional Fair in October.

We would like to thank all prospective students who were able to attend and, of course, our alumni who were able to make it out to several of our open houses to present and answer questions. We look forward to publishing our 2017 Open House schedule on our website soon. Keep up to date with our upcoming events here.

SJSM Awarded Extension of CAAM-HP Accreditation

We are very pleased to announce that CAAM-HP has once again awarded us an extension of our current accreditation status for another year. The process of accreditation is a continuous one that will continue as long as the school is functional.

We would like to congratulate the entire team of staff, students, faculty and management for a job well done, and we look forward to working together as a team for many years to come.

This status is awarded to universities that either meet or exceed standards of performance and structure, and ensures that students meet educational requirements for future training.

To become accredited, the university must provide top educational programming to prepare students for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). The school also must provide a detailed, structured curriculum to further prove its qualifications.

The accreditation process has two goals:

- To certify that a university’s medical education meets standards
- To promote self-improvement and reflection

The CAAM-HP was founded in 2003 by the Caribbean Community to establish standards in medical universities, and accredit programs that provide a quality education. CAAM-HP also honors dental, veterinary, nursing and other health schools.
STUDENT NEWS

ACTIVE Reaches Out to Promote Positive Health Behavior Changes

More than 150 people attended the health fair from 9am to 12pm, which was held at the Kingstown Church of Christ on October 15, 2016. This health fair was conducted by ACTIVE, an SJSM student organization that aims to help individuals become more involved in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The free screenings offered at the health fair included: blood pressure, blood sugar, eye exams and body mass index. The health fair was free, confidential and open to all. Many locals overlook their health because they cannot afford proper healthcare, so ACTIVE is honored to provide free screenings to individuals in need.

The Vice-President of ACTIVE, Tiffaney Wray formed relationships with the individuals at the Kingstown Church of Christ congregation and together they worked to make this health fair a success. The church members handed out fliers throughout the community, and provided tents, tables and chairs, as well as transportation for the medical students. A total of seven SJSM medical students hosted this event. The ACTIVE members made educational pamphlets, provided medical supplies and promoted this event on three radio stations as well as through social media. ACTIVE also recruited three dietitians to assist with one-on-one nutrition consultations.

In addition, members gave out recipes, cold water and healthy snacks to the individuals who stopped by to support the health fair. The church was kind enough to provide the ACTIVE members with a light lunch as a token of gratitude after the health fair.

ACTIVE promotes both mental and physical health, while allowing medical students to engage in activities that will apply what they have learned in textbooks to real life situations. The tremendous efforts of ACTIVE to make a difference in the lives of others is commended and greatly appreciated.
AMSA Spearheads Breast Cancer Awareness Drive to Grow Ties with Locals

By Chloe Waters, MD3

The fall semester of 2016 was a great success for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Chapter at Saint James School of Medicine, Saint Vincent. After adopting the local community, Calliaqua, AMSA hosted three monthly health screenings in order to encourage health awareness within the area. The efforts of AMSA reached over 300 Vincentians.

Free services to the public included blood pressure, blood glucose and body mass index assessments, as well as a breast cancer screening in November overseen by Dr. Hughes Dougan, local physician originally from Morristown, New Jersey. Students provided hands-on and friendly care in order to foster growing ties with the local population. Additionally, students were granted the opportunity to learn breast examination skills and techniques for the detection of cancer.

Dr. Dougan provided tips to students that cannot be absorbed from textbooks, but only gathered from experience.

Breast cancer is the leading factor in mortality among Vincentian women. Often, the cost for diagnosis, care and treatment of breast cancer is high, and many women cannot afford treatment outside of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Additionally, many women are unaware of self-screening techniques or when they should start screening for breast cancer. SJSM AMSA is seeking to break the barriers and spread awareness to women across the island. Similar events are planned for Spring 2017, targeted at other screening measures for the Vincentian community.

Within AMSA, students are spearheading community outreach while garnering valuable skills to augment their education at Saint James School of Medicine—priming their futures for success as physicians in training.
Chloe Waters and Sharjeel Qureshi Attend AMSA International Fall Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Students involved in the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) set themselves apart by consistently seeking avenues to sharpen their competitive edge for the best medical educational opportunities. This October, two students representing Saint James School of Medicine, Saint Vincent, were able to attend AMSA’s first International Fall Conference. Chloe Waters (SJSM SV AMSA Chapter President) and Sharjeel Qureshi (SJSM SV AMSA Chapter Action Committee Head) traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico to explore what AMSA has to offer for International Medical Students.

The event took place October 14-16, with an “invitation only” Leadership Reception on October 13. Chloe and Sharjeel were invited to attend the reception hosted by Lippincott’s Medical Education Research Team Lead of Puerto Rico, Dr. Harry Delacruz. The reception was an outstanding networking opportunity with eight International AMSA chapters represented. The reception was a premier forum for SJSM SVT students to connect with other leaders and build the foundation for future professional relationships.

The two-day conference focused on the road to residency and tailoring habits to facilitate lifelong learning. The event ignited with a keynote speaker, Bolivar Arboleda-Osorio, MD FACS, and Director of the Breast Institute at HIMA San Pablo Oncology. He explored the evolution of medicine—from leeches to robotics—highlighting medical examination as the foundation for all medical technology. Dr. Bolivar urged the audience to take active roles in furthering medical advancement, but to never forget our purpose as medical students and future physicians.

Multiple speakers and sponsors hosted a variety of workshops, from interview tips to personal statement writing. Of these workshops, the most paramount of the conference was hosted by Thomas Kuivila, MD, Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program Director, Cleveland Clinic. He titled his workshop “What Program Directors Want You to Know.” He busted myths of the application, personal statement and interview processes—which seemed to reignite passion in many of the attending medical students. Dr. Kuivila gave words of wisdom and guidance on how to connect with program directors, what to expect as International Medical Graduates and how to land top choice residency positions.

The highlight of the AMSA Fall Conference was the Exhibit Fair—multiple vendors were set up for medical students around the Caribbean to discover resources critical to their careers. Exhibitors included Wolters Kluwer, Becker, Boston University Residency Program Associates and many more. As the fair came to a close, a raffle for multiple give-aways was held. SJSM did not come back empty handed—Chloe won the grand-prize, a 7-week live USMLE Step 1 prep course hosted by Becker Professional Medication—a $5,000 value.

Above all, SJSM SV AMSA leaders were able to garner knowledge and tips to bring back to their colleagues. The AMSA Fall Conference is just the beginning of many opportunities available for SJSM students to get involved, to lead and to empower.
Prostate Cancer Awareness Event Held with SVG Lions Club

By Alyssa Fairservice, MD3

On September 24, SJSM St. Vincent assisted Dr. Davy and her team from The Lions Club St. Vincent South in Georgetown at the health event “Saving Vincy Men”. Thirteen students from SJSM traveled by bus to Georgetown to provide health screenings and promote prostate cancer awareness. The students took blood pressure and blood glucose measurements, as well as tested for the Prostate Specific Antigen in approximately 60 men age 40-70 years old. The event was a success, and the students thoroughly enjoyed and valued the clinical experience gained as well as aiding the local community in St. Vincent.

USMLE Pathology Drill Session

By Molly Jain, MD3

USMLE Prep Club arranged an interactive Pathology learning session on October 12, 2016. The session was attended by 16 students from MD3 and MD4 classes. Dr. Zeine explained different types of fractures using X-Ray images and went over many USMLE style questions relating to the topic. It refreshed and touched upon topics from Pathology, Anatomy, Radiology and Histology. The students learned to analyze the X-Ray images, note the area of lesion and fracture and finally come up with the right diagnosis.

Interactive Communication with AMSA through Videoconference

By Melissa L Brown, MD3

As an International Medical Student here in Saint Vincent, there are many unknowns about what the transition to AICM in Jackson Park, Chicago will bring. In order to help curb the concerns and fears that AICM has in store, AMSA conducted a Skype call with students currently experiencing SJSM AICM, as well as students in rotations.

Inspired by previous Skype calls, Chloe Waters (AMSA President) and Melissa Brown (Vice President) rallied the AMSA team to bring the current student body the most updated information. The event was centered around students in AICM and rotations (Thornia Hunt, Jessica Tillman, and Kurtis), who provided the attendees with insight on what to expect after leaving the island and opened the floor for any questions and concerns students wanted to present. The following topics were addressed: NBME, AICM and recent changes made, midterm diagnostic exams, clinical rotations, housing and a typical day in AICM.

The AMSA Skype call was a great success. The Skype guests were very helpful and informative. As a whole, the AMSA team received great feedback from the students who were present. As with every AMSA event, this call would not have been possible without the effort and dedication of the AMSA board members working together for the betterment of SJSM.
Anguilla – MD3 Poster Session

Heart Saver Courses on Anguilla

The American Heart Association training site has been busy on Anguilla this semester. We have provided Heart Saver courses to the local community, and BLS, Rapid Lead II Interpretation and ACLS courses to the students of SJSM Anguilla Campus. The instructors at our AHA Training Site look forward to offering further training in the coming year.

Instructors: Mandi Ritchie and Jazmine Oliver

For more information call 0800 542 1553 or email info@mail.sjsm.org
For the first time ever, SJSJ AMSA sent nine students to the AMSA 2016 Fall Conference in beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico. This conference was a valuable experience for all that attended. There were numerous informational sessions offered that covered a wide array of topics ranging from M1 year to the matching process to residency and beyond. Our students separated, attending and recording different sessions to bring home and share with the school and fellow colleagues. Some of the topics learned about were: helpful study tips for basic science years and USMLE Step 1 (with proven research tied to different methods that work), what residency program directors and attending physicians want students to know, the realities of organ donation, self-awareness tools, new technologies and advances in medicine and even some anatomy review with clinical skills practice. We also met and networked with students from our SJSJ Saint Vincent Campus, and other students from schools all over the Caribbean and USA. It was truly an exceptional experience and we are already making plans to attend the next one!

Board Members that attended: Jazmin Oliver, Mary Klueh, Amy Winczura, Heather Kinder

SJSM Anguilla attendees: Kelly Tauo, Tiffany Work, Mary Klueh, Jazmin Oliver, Amy Winczura, Heather Kinder, Amanda Kohler
POLICY UPDATES

NBME Schedules

Prequalification Exams
The NBME Comprehensive Basic and Clinical Science Exams required to prequalify for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK are proctored exams to be taken at the Prometric center of the student’s choice. Self-assessments taken at home will not be accepted for this purpose. Testing windows open every two weeks and are two weeks in duration; however, the deadline to register for any window is six weeks in advance. Please keep this in mind when planning your exams.

For more information on how to register, please visit www.sjsm.org/prequal. For those of you familiar with this page, we have added a link to the schedule for the next six months. If you see a date that is not available on the Prequalification Examination Registration Form and the deadline has not passed, it will become available as we get closer to that date.

Core Rotation Exams
The NBME Clinical Science Subject Exams required for each core rotation are also proctored exams to be taken at the Prometric center of the student’s choice. These exams are only scheduled once a month. The testing windows open the third Monday of the month and are two weeks in duration. Students will be placed in a testing window based on the month the rotation ends in, regardless of start date or other scheduled rotations. For example, any student who has a core rotation that ends in February will be added to the testing widow that starts the third Monday of February.

Please note all scheduling is done based on the schedules available to us during the registration period. For a complete schedule, please visit www.sjsm.org/clinical/rotations.

NBME Attempts

There is a common misconception that SJSM will only allow students to attempt the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (Step 1 prequalification) up to four times. Although other schools have limits on this exam, SJSM does not have a limit at this time. A student can take the NBME CBSE as many times as needed to pass. The score required to pass is based on how many times a student has applied for Step 1, not how many times they have attempted the NBME CBSE.

This flow chart has been created to help students understand the process and requirements. More information and a printable copy of this chart are available at www.sjsm.org/clinical/usmle.
Course Drop Policy

During its November 2016 meeting, the Curriculum Committee approved a new Course Drop Policy. The new policy will allow students struggling academically to drop a course without an academic sanction (no impact on the GPA)

There will be two drop deadlines each semester:

- The first Drop Date will be at the conclusion of the third week of class. Dropping a course before the end of the last day of the third week of class would eliminate the course from the student’s transcript as if it was never taken.
- The second Drop Date is considered the end of the first week of block three. Dropping a course prior to this drop date but after the end of the third week of class will result in a Withdrawal (W) grade for the course and would not impact the overall GPA of the program.

Dropping a course after the second drop deadline would result in an assignment of the course grade based on performance for the entire semester, including missed periods. This policy was designed to assist students struggling academically and give them an opportunity to retake the course that the student would likely fail without a major penalty on the transcript.

To review the full policy, please see the new 2017 Student Catalog which can be found in the Downloads section of our website.

New Clinical Rotation Form

Beginning on January 1, Clinical Science students who are rotating in clerkships will be able to submit their portal updates through the website using the new Clinical Rotation Form. This will allow students the ability to minimize discrepancies in their transcript records as well as avoid late registration for clerkship exams. Furthermore, this will enable the Clinical Department to better track the activity of Clinical Science students to ensure all administrative procedures are followed. The expectation is that this will streamline and enhance the communication between students and the Clinical Department around a routine aspect of Clinical Sciences, allowing both sides to focus more of their interaction around the “not-so-routine” components that arise.

Estimated Future Match Timeline

Curious when to start rotations or clear the Step 2 exams in order to participate in the Match year of your choice? This table has been put together to answer these questions and help you plan your rotations and exams. Keep in mind, the deadlines to register for prequalification exams are six weeks in advance of the testing window, and scores will not be received until after the testing window closes. Also, wait times to get an appointment for Step 2 CS can range from four to six months once you are approved to take this exam. Please take all this into consideration when determining when you will be able to participate in Match.

For more information regarding residency applications and for a printable version of the table below, please visit www.sjsm.org/clinical/residency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATCH YEAR</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommend Starting Rotations*</td>
<td>8/31/2015</td>
<td>8/29/2016</td>
<td>8/30/2017</td>
<td>8/27/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUST START ROTATIONS*</td>
<td>10/19/2015</td>
<td>10/17/2016</td>
<td>10/16/2017</td>
<td>10/15/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would have to rotate every single week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommend 44 Weeks Complete*</td>
<td>7/1/2016</td>
<td>7/1/2017</td>
<td>7/1/2018</td>
<td>7/1/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSPE Request Form Due</td>
<td>7/12/2016</td>
<td>7/10/2017</td>
<td>7/9/2018</td>
<td>7/8/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUST Pass Step 2 CK and CS</td>
<td>12/31/2016</td>
<td>12/31/2017</td>
<td>12/31/2018</td>
<td>12/31/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation/ Degree Confirmed</td>
<td>5/1/2017</td>
<td>5/1/2018</td>
<td>5/1/2019</td>
<td>5/1/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Residency</td>
<td>7/1/2017</td>
<td>7/1/2018</td>
<td>7/1/2019</td>
<td>7/1/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*NOT INCLUDING AICM</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Announcement Regarding Leaves of Absence in Clinical Sciences

After the completion of the fifth semester, students are expected to be inactive for some time until they have registered for and completed the USMLE Step 1. Effective immediately, no LOA will be required or granted during this period. Billing will resume as per billing policy.
Logbook Requirement for Core Rotations

The school requires a minimum of 10 log entries per week (Monday to Sunday) to be completed by midnight on Sunday. They are reviewed every Monday morning and counted based on the date performed. If logs are entered for an older week during the week in review, they will not be counted. Logs entered early Monday will also not be counted.

Anyone who does not complete their weekly logs will receive a warning. Continuous failure to complete logs may result in a grade reduction up to one letter grade.

We have received several reports of students not being able to enter or save logs into New Innovations. Here are some steps you can take to ensure this does not happen to you:

1) Do not use the Safari browser. Although New Innovations (NI) should support Safari, we have had several students who were able to alleviate their issues by switching to a different browser. NI supports IE 9 and above, and the current versions of CHROME and FireFox.

2) Avoid using the app to enter your logs. Several students have reported using the NI app to enter logs which do not properly save and do not show up on our reports. If you are using a smartphone, enter the logs through one of the recommended browsers above.

3) Make sure English is configured as one of your browser languages. NI recommends the following steps to complete this:
   - Go to “Tools” on your Internet browser window
   - Select “Internet Options”
   - If you do not see “English (United States)” in the Language box, click “Add…”
   - Select “English (United States)”
   - Click “Ok”
   - Click “Ok” again (if needed)
   - Click “Apply” > Click “Ok”

If you continue to have problems with New Innovations after taking these steps, please submit a ticket to NI (do not call them) and forward the response to SJSMClinical@mail.sjsm.org.

Clinical Services must receive your email with proof of a ticket submitted prior to the Sunday deadline for the logs. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis for students who are unable to submit logs for the week. Any emails received after the deadline will not be accepted and any resulting violation will stand.