

Student Organizations

Class Council- Serving your class, officers are elected during orientation/MMI. This group is responsible for organizing social events for your class, communicating to the class about important events, and advocating for your class to the administration. Some event ideas include: post-exam social events (bars or local social places), RPO Orchestra concerts, hockey game outings, trivia nights, local art gallery visits, etc. Positions include: one President, two Vice Presidents, one Secretary, one Treasurer, one Class Senator, two Honor Board Members, one AAMC representative, and two class curriculum representatives.

Senate- Serving the entire medical student population, the group is in charge of organizing events for the entire medical school and serving the student population. Traditional events include a Halloween Party, Holiday Party, Talent Show, and Spring Formal. Senate holds quarterly meetings with each year's class councils. Near the end of your second semester, you will be eligible to apply for these senate positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and IT outreach.

Interest Groups

These groups host lunchtime and evening meetings with speakers that will address all kinds of topics related to their specialty, including general overviews, specific topics, and lifestyle issues. Participating in groups in your specialties of interest is a great way of connecting with mentors for shadowing or summer research.

Aging Interest Group

Anesthesiology Interest Group

Cardiology Interest Group

Dermatology Interest Group

Emergency Medicine Interest Group

Family Medicine Interest Group

Health Services Research Interest Group

Infectious Diseases Interest Group

Integrative Medicine Interest Group

Internal Medicine Interest Group

Interventional Radiology Interest Group

Neurology Interest Group

Neurosurgery Interest Group

Nutrition Interest Group

Ob/Gyn Interest Group

Oncology Interest Group

Ophthalmology Interest Group

Orthopaedic Surgery Interest Group

Pathology Interest Group

Pediatrics Interest Group

Psychiatry Interest Group

Public Health Interest Group

Radiology Interest Group

Surgery Interest Group

Ultrasound Interest Group

Wilderness Medicine Interest Group

Other Student Organizations

Other student organizations include the affinity groups, which address the concerns and needs of specific minority groups; service organizations; and groups for people with common outside interests. Again, if there's a group you don't see but would like to organize, feel free to do so!

American Medical Student Association:

The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) is the oldest and largest independent association of medical students in the country with a membership of over 65,000 physicians in training. AMSA is a completely student-governed organization committed to representing the concerns of medical students. We represent no single point of view, and there is a wide array of issues that we address—there is something for everyone. AMSA members champion such concerns as fighting for universal health care, eliminating health disparities, and transforming the culture of medicine. AMSA, for example was one of the leading organizations responsible for the Residency Work Hours Reform movement, resulting in the limitation of an 80-hour workweek for all residents throughout the country. Our U of R AMSA chapter focuses on community initiatives, education and reform. We have leaders focused specifically on Universal Health Care, Community and Public Health and Advocacy. Examples of past events include: Seacover-- a comparison of US and Canadian Healthcare systems in Seattle and Vancouver; A6575 Bill complain- a letter writing campaign with 8 other medical schools in New York State urging our state senators to support an initiative to investigate universal health care.

American Medical Association – Medical Student Section:

This is the U of R student chapter of the American Medical Association. As the student section of the larger physician organization, this chapter works with doctors to bring about change in areas of medicine that will affect our health care system for years to come. At the same time, we have our own policies, leaders, and meetings that are separate from the larger organization. Specifically, our organization focuses on ways to cover the uninsured, promote public health, end healthcare disparities and reform medical education. To this end we send delegations each year to two annual meetings of the entire AMA-MSS which are focused on creating and updating policy which the AMA will advocate for in Congress, as well as state and regional meetings to address policy on those levels. We also have an active community service arm that organizes several events each year to foster relations with the Rochester community.

American Medical Women’s Association:

American medical women’s association was created by a group of women across the country in order to provide a networking opportunity for women to support each other, discuss the unique challenges of being a woman in medicine, and promote education and advancement of women’s health. Past activities have included educational lunchtime talks on being a woman in medicine, volunteer opportunities at the women’s group and Sojourner House to help women recovering from substance abuse and other hardships, monthly meetings to talk about your experiences with fellow students and faculty, mentoring opportunities and opportunities to attend the national conference.

Asian-Pacific Medical Students Association:

APAMSA is a national organization aimed to address the issues relevant to the Asian population that reside in America and elsewhere. As a significant portion of our patient population will be of Asian descent, it is particularly important to learn how to care for them in a culturally sensitive manner as well as promote the health and well-being of the Asian community. We offer opportunities to engage with the Asian community and explore alternative forms of medicine. In addition, we will have guest speakers to discuss the regional differences in healthcare that exist in Asia today, as well as the medical crises that afflict them, in hopes of providing a worldwide perspective on healthcare to medical students.

EMPEX:

EMPEX gives students the unique opportunity to practice procedures in the Strong ER. Students volunteer for shifts in which they have the opportunity to work with nurses to learn how to place IVs, suture, place EKGs, drain abscesses, and perform catheterizations. Students also help out by getting vitals and responding to patient requests. Each shift, there is also the opportunity to spend time observing in the trauma bay. Students will receive EMPEX training for various procedures at the beginning of the school year.

Finger Lakes Community and Migrant Health Care Project:

FLCMHCP is a federally funded organization that provides health care to Migrant farm workers in New York. The branch the University of Rochester School of Medicine partners with is located in Sodus, NY. Students will join outreach teams and travel with them to camps where they will provide education on

health topics relevant to migrant workers while providers see individual patients. The health education material is in the form of a PowerPoint that can be projected onto a wall “in camp.” The material currently covers topics identified by the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine (NYCAM) and is in Spanish.

GAIN (Global AIDS Involvement Network):

Student organization aimed at creating a cohesive network among students and healthcare workers in the common goal of raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and providing services to those affected by this pandemic. Accomplishments to date include creation of alliances with local volunteer organizations, outreach work, political activism, faculty lectures, information booths at local festivals, and involvement in international health projects.

Healthy Kids Healthy Futures:

This group is dedicated to providing informative and interactive afternoon activities and lessons for kids regarding healthy habits and living. We volunteer at a local elementary school once a week. Participating in this group is a very rewarding experience, and you get to serve the community, which is what URM students are all about!

Homeless Response Team:

The goal of this group is to establish meaningful, long-term connections with the homeless patients who are admitted to the hospital. Students are assigned to a team of 3-4 students (a mix of students from all class years), and when a homeless person is admitted to the hospital, one of these teams is alerted. Members of that team then meet up with the homeless person in their hospital room, chat, introduce themselves, get to know the patient, and exchange contact info. The goal is to figure out what the patient's most pressing psychosocial needs are (do they need/want a job? Do they have a PCP? Do they need a cell phone? Do they want more permanent housing?), and then follow up with that patient once every 1-2 weeks for about 6 months (meet them somewhere in the community, help them arrange doctor appts and meet them there, etc.). The team's role will be to serve as their advocate, and a positive liaison between them and the medical community. The ultimate goal of the program is to set up homeless individuals with a PCP (or reinforce their relationship with an already existing one), improve their trust in the medical system, and help them accomplish as many psychosocial--and sometimes medical--needs as possible (connect them with resources to find a job, housing, cellphone, etc). The teams will work closely with social workers to help accomplish this.

Intervol:

Intervol is a Rochester organization that takes donated medical supplies and sends them to underserved areas worldwide. Medical students participate in packing parties to help sort unused and recyclable medical supplies at INTERVOL's warehouse. INTERVOL collects these unused recyclable medical supplies from healthcare organizations in upstate New York and ships them to international healthcare organizations to assist people in developing and emerging countries. Students going abroad for the summer can also get medical supplies from INTERVOL to bring to their in-country facilities. For more information, please go to <http://www.intervol.org>

Islamic Medical Association of North America University of Rochester Chapter:

IMANA is a national non-profit organization that was established in the US in 1967. The University of Rochester chapter was co-founded by medical students Aunali Khaku and Imran Punekar in the Fall of 2006. Under the guidance of Dr Shakeel Shareef, and Dr. Ali Hamdan, it has continued to grow and thrive and now includes residents and attendings. The mission of IMANA is to provide a forum and resource for Muslim medical students, physicians and other health care professionals, to promote a greater awareness of Islam, and Islamic medical ethics and values, to provide humanitarian and medical relief, and to be an advocate in health care policy. This mission is guided by the Quranic verse; "If anyone has killed one person it is as if he has killed the whole of mankind, and if he has saved one life it is as if he saved the whole of mankind." (Holy Quran 5:32)

Latino Medical Student Association

The Latino Medical Student Association is a non-profit organization founded to represent, support, educate, and unify US Latino(a) medical students. The Rochester chapter fosters engagement with the local community, organizes networking events, and reaches out to applicants that are extended an interview or accepted.

Medical Center Christian Fellowship:

URMCCF is a group of Christians in the health professions, primarily medical students, associated with the University of Rochester Medical Center who gather regularly for fellowship, prayer, Bible study, and investigation of ethical issues. The group has been an active part of the Medical Center community for over 25 years and encourages students in their personal faith as well as their participation in community service. The vision of URMCCF is to encourage students in the medical profession and associated disciplines to grow closer in their relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ, amidst the rigors of a demanding schedule and intense workload. We aim to equip our members to share their faith with others, and to serve our classmates and our community. We will foster cogent Christian thinking in our discussion of medicine, ethics, and other intellectual issues. Learn more about us on our website, www.urmccf.org.

Medical Students for Choice:

Medical Students for Choice is a group dedicated to ensuring that women receive the full range of reproductive healthcare choices. MSFC recognizes that one of the greatest obstacles to safe and legal abortion is the absence of trained providers. As medical students and residents, we work to make reproductive health care, including abortion, a part of standard medical education and residency training. In the past we have had educational lunch talks on the current political situation, lobbying training, religion and choice, hands-on papaya workshop, shadowing experiences and caravanned to the national conference. MS4C would be thrilled to network with other like-minded individuals but also welcomes students with all views on this issue.

Nativity Middle School Tutoring:

The Nativity Preparatory Academy is a private, Roman Catholic school in the City of Rochester designed for highly self-motivated, economically disadvantaged students. These children are behind in their grade level as compared to the average student, resulting from negative social and economic factors affecting them and their families. Once a week, medical students go to Nativity and tutor a middle school student for an hour in subjects such as math, history, English and science. Medical students usually have the same Nativity student each week, which helps to foster a close relationship.

On-Call Student A Cappella Group:

On-Call is URSMD's own medical student a cappella performance group. We perform medical parodies of popular songs as well as non-medical pieces. We have weekly practices with performances throughout the year.

Physicians for Human Rights:

A national group, Physicians for human rights views protecting human rights as a way of protecting human health. At the U of R medical school, the student chapter is interested in the issue of human rights at the international, national, and community level, all while asking: What unique qualities do physicians contribute to the protections and discussion of human rights. In the past the group has raised money for an orphanage in Thailand, has had service projects, awareness projects and regular dinner discussions of human rights issues.

Reaching out to Kids (ROK):

This big brother/big sister program matches medical students with children with chronic illnesses. A great way to get involved in the community and give back.

Refugee Student Alliance:

RSA is a group that partners with community organizations that work with refugees resettled in Rochester. Over 700 refugees are resettled here annually from over 25 countries. RSA's primary programs are volunteering with families and individuals who came to Rochester as refugees, including tutoring/mentoring programs for children, health/nutrition classes for adults, and on-campus events for former refugee students in local schools. RSA's secondary activities include organizing fundraising and charity events to help raise needed items for local refugees, and inviting guest speakers and former refugees to deliver talks on campus.

Rochester Young Scientist's Club:

The Rochester Young Scientist Club (RYSC) mentors a group of 5th and 6th grade students from a local community school as they learn about how science is practiced in a professional setting. Activities that the 5th and 6th graders participate in include exercises to demonstrate principles of the scientific method as well as tours of working laboratories at the Medical Center. The RYSC program culminates with a longitudinal project in which the 5th and 6th grade students apply what they've learned by developing a scientific experiment and presenting their findings at the Medical Center with the help of their mentors. The RYSC's goal is not only to teach the 5th and 6th graders about science, but also to encourage life-long curiosity and enthusiasm by giving them the opportunity to do science at a world-class academic institution.

Saturday School:

Volunteers go to local Elementary School twice per month on Saturday mornings. The morning begins with a breakfast for the children. Then, students go to classrooms where they work with the teachers as tutors in math and reading. In the middle of morning there is downtime where we play with the kids in gym or outside. We also provide a mid morning snack. It's a great way to have some fun with the kids and help them with their schoolwork!

SPECTRUM:

SPECTRUM is a group that serves as an informational, supportive, and educational resource to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual individuals at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Including both student and faculty, this group aims to promote visibility and awareness of LGBT issues within the medical setting. SPECTRUM is also a social organization that sponsors events such as coffee houses and movie nights.

SNACKS (Serving Nutritious and Appetizing Cuisine to the Kin of the Sick):

Every Thursday this group heads to the American Cancer Society's Hope lodge to prepare a delicious home-cooked meal for the residents staying at the Hope Lodge. The Hope Lodge is a charity/low-cost hotel place where people can stay when receiving treatment in town. Usually one person will buy all the ingredients, lead the preparation, and then the group has dinner with the residents. You really get to know the visitors!

StART:

StART is a program designed for pediatric inpatients at Strong. Medical students plan and participate in fun activities with children staying at the hospital. We work with kids of all ages every Friday afternoon at 2 pm on the pediatric play deck. Past activities have included a carnival day, scavenger hunts, and art projects. It's a great way to have some fun after a hard week of classes!

Street Outreach:

UR Street Outreach is a student-run organization dedicated to reaching out to the homeless of Rochester and offering basic medical care, access to resources (food, clothing, housing), and acting as sources of support and friendship. In order to deliver our care, UR Street Outreach visits local Rochester homeless shelters and homeless individuals living on the streets, on Wednesday and Friday evenings of each week. As part of our basic medical care, students take patient histories, provide physical exams, administer flu vaccines, take blood sugars, and offer medical advice when appropriate, with a physician usually present on rounds or available on call.

Students for a National Health Program:

SNaHP is the student section of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), an organization which brings together doctors, health care providers, and concerned citizens from around the country to advocate for single-payer health insurance and other progressive health care policies. By forming a local chapter, the group aims to advocate for our future patients at both the state and federal level, while also connecting with other activists here in Rochester and throughout the country.

Student National Medical Association:

The Student National Medical Association is a national student run organization dedicated to increasing social and cultural awareness in the medical community and fostering a diverse student body. Our University of Rochester chapter focuses extensively on community service outreach programs including service initiatives and health fairs to address issues such as adolescent health and sexuality, smoking cessation and prevention, and health maintenance particularly for underserved populations. SNMA also participates in three programs for undergraduate (MAPS), high school (HPREP), and elementary school (YSEP) students that were established to encourage underrepresented students to pursue careers in health related fields. All of SNMA's outreach programs aim both to increase patient access to medical care and other resources and to empower future physicians to deliver competent and culturally sensitive patient care. For the student body, SNMA also organizes several social events throughout the year such as our annual welcome reception, Kwanza celebrations, black history month events, and Hispanic heritage month events. In addition, during the year we fundraise for group activities along with collecting donations for various service organizations like our annual coat drive. SNMA would like to congratulate you on your admission to medical school and wish you the best of luck as you advance in your medical education. Feel free to contact any of the executive board members if you would like more information or have questions. You can also visit our chapter website at: <http://urmc.rochester.edu/smd/student/snma> and the national website at www.snma.org. We hope that you consider getting involved in SNMA as we would love to have you as part of our team.

Students for Integrative Medicine:

Students for Integrative Medicine seeks to broaden the scope of medical education discussions to include multiple systems of healing. Past topics include psychosomatic medicine, naturopathic and herbal medicine, healing through nutrition, yoga, ayurveda, music and art therapy, healing through humor, and Native American medicine. We hope to create a forum for this discussion through informal gatherings, activities, community service, and guest speakers. Come share your ideas!

UR Well Clinic:

UR Well is an entirely student run non-profit organization whose mission is to provide free health care services to the uninsured and underserved families in the Rochester community. There are currently three volunteer clinics operating: Asbury, St. Joe's, and St. Luke's. Each clinic has a unique regional patient population, and they have some variations in organization and specific services provided. Generally, first-year students can start in the fall in administrative and medical assistant positions, and then in the spring as Health Team Juniors, who perform physical exams and histories under the supervision of a third- or fourth-year student (Health Team Seniors). A licensed health care provider is present to provide supervision, support, feedback, and patient care. Additionally, there are occasional "Specialty Nights", during which specialists in fields such as neurology, dermatology, endocrinology, etc. volunteer at the clinic to provide care in their respective scopes of practice. During the summer, full-time positions are available for students with greater role in clinical care and administrations. Training is also provided for more specialized clinical responsibilities, such as smoking cessation counseling.

