ODASIS Celebrates 25 Years
Words of Welcome from Dr. Breslauer

In this newsletter, we recognize and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Rutgers University Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences within the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Division of Life Sciences. In this issue, we also share the extraordinary stories and achievements of our ODASIS students. Simply stated, ODASIS is a great state and national success story, with over 500 alumni from underrepresented populations living and practicing medicine in New Jersey and around the country.

ODASIS is now recognized as one of the top ten programs in the nation for graduating underrepresented students who go on to pursue degrees in medicine, dentistry, and other allied-health fields and research. In fact, in the past 25 years, over 850 students have graduated from our program, with over half earning M.D. degrees and the rest finding careers in other allied health fields. It was a great pleasure in April to recount the outstanding achievements of current ODASIS students, as well as to recognize ODASIS alumni, both those graduating from graduate and clinical programs, and those already practicing and working. The University looks forward to continuing to bask in the reflective glory of the exceptional pre-medical, science, math, and engineering student across all units of Rutgers University who take advantage of the academic support and professional development provided by ODASIS. The impact the ODASIS programs has on the lives of our students cannot be understated. It is my honor to have this national treasure as part of the SAS Division of Life Sciences.

Dr. Kenneth J. Breslauer
Vice President for Health Science Partnerships
Dean of the Division of Life Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences

ODASIS’ ONLINE MCAT PREP CLASS

In addition to our highly successful MCAT course, ODASIS is now offering an online MCAT course.

Our online MCAT course is offered during the Spring semester to Rutgers University students and includes an in-class computer learning session as well as the online component. The course provides more flexibility for many students at Rutgers University. We are also now offering brand new DAT and GRE courses.

http://odasis.rutgers.edu/index.php/online-mcat-course

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Upcoming Events:

- October 21, 2011 Health Allied Professions Workshop
- December 2, 2011 Motivational Workshop
25th Anniversary Celebration!

On April 20, 2011 ODASIS celebrated its 25th Anniversary of increasing the recruitment and academic success of underrepresented students at the annual Awards Dinner held on Douglass Campus. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni enjoyed the evening festivities. Among the honorees were the highly successful members of the 2010-2011 MCAT class, the ODASIS participants of the class of 2011, and alumni graduating from programs in medicine, dentistry, public health, graduate school, and physical therapy. Alumni enjoyed a celebratory reception prior to the ceremony sponsored by Dr. Didier Demesmin, followed by dinner and the traditional awards ceremony. Guests enjoyed a thought-provoking talk by ODASIS alumnus Dr. Neil Martin, a trauma surgeon currently practicing at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. This was followed by words of encouragement by Dr. Carol Terregina, Associate Dean of Admissions at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The night concluded with a thoughtful speech discussing health disparities in the U.S. by Mr. Díaz, father of Access-Med Phase II student Laura Díaz. Amidst the recent record-breaking achievement of the past year’s MCAT class, the spectacular speakers and alumni dinner, and live music by the Matt Teitelman Quartet, ODASIS could not have found a more marvelous way of celebrating 25 years of promoting excellence and achievement for underrepresented students in the sciences and medicine.

Pictured Top: ODASIS Alumni Schubert Perotte, M.D., Gbolabo Sokunbi M.D. and Alfy Oloyade, M.D.
Pictured Left: ODASIS Alumni Ricardo Verdiner, M.D. Corey Smith, M.D. Didier Demesmin, M.D. and James Pierre-Louis, M.D. gather for the Alumni Reception prior to the Awards Ceremony.

J&J Bridge to Employment High School Program Educates New Brunswick

Bridge to Employment (BTE) is a Johnson & Johnson program established to connect young students to the health care industry and its plethora of career opportunities. Students in the BTE program take English 100 and 101 at Rutgers University for college credit.

27 students, 5 mentors, and 12 parents of students were in attendance at the Nutrition Fair presentations held at the New Brunswick Farmers Market. The students met with two instructors to set-up their presentation boards and prepare to present to the community. Each was given a station along with raffle tickets for their activities. They presented to the community in attendance, mentors, family and friends. Their presentations consisted of information about diet and exercise and their effects on the body. As their audience participated and correctly performed their activities by recalling the information in the presentations, they were handed raffle tickets. At midday the 2 winners for the raffle were announced.

Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick Tomorrow, and New Brunswick Public Schools are all thanked for their contributions to our various high school programs. This past year 21 students have been accepted to Rutgers University.

New Brunswick High School Senior Kenneth Sorrell explains the benefits of calcium at the New Brunswick Farmers Market Nutrition Fair, a part of the Bridge to Employment Program sponsored by Johnson & Johnson.
USC Undergraduate Summer Research Assistants Program 2011

Two ODASIS students were accepted to the University of Southern California's Undergraduate Research Associates Program (URAP) which takes place during the summer. As part of URAP, these students completed a research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor and participated in seminars and conferences where they had the opportunity to present the research. Rutgers University junior Eunice Martins states "This program is more than I could have asked for or imagined. The Keck School of Medicine is literally on the brink of so much life-changing research and their continuous surge of grants and donations show for it. This summer we have had the opportunity to gain invaluable skills within the lab, become certified in Animal Care and Use for experiments, and develop a mentoring relationship with graduate students as well as cordial and qualified faculty. I am working with Dr. Sangyan Stiles, Ph.D. and her ground-breaking research with Beta Cells and Liver Cancer. We have also been cleared for the University Hospital, County Hospital, and Children's Hospital in LA where we will soon have shadowing opportunities. Our amazement is topped off by the great weekends we spend exploring LA where we have seen Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Bel Air, and various famous beaches. You don't want to miss out on this next year! We hope to see more ODASIS students participating next year!"

Cancer Institute of New Jersey Research Program

Every year at ODASIS 2-3 students are selected to conduct research at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) for two summers and an academic year in between. Students take courses and spend time conducting laboratory research.

Students participating in this program gain hands-on experience conducting research at CINJ for a period of two years, build networks with faculty / staff at CINJ, and conduct final presentations on a research project at CINJ.

We congratulate Ezinnem Ugoji and Kathleen Cruz, Rutgers University sophomores for their acceptance into the program this summer.

ODASIS CINJ Alumni

Academic Year 2010-2011
Applying to medical school next year
Theresa Adekoya
Lauren Evans
Mariah Rice

Academic Year 2009-2010
Rachel Odeyemi—Attending UMDNJ—Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Mabel Mayorga—Attending NJMS—Accepted via Early Decision

Academic Year 2008-2009
Alister Martin—Attending Harvard Medical School
Hector Osoria—Attending Cornell Medical School

DID YOU KNOW?

In the past 3 years, 27 EOF students have been accepted to medical dental, podiatry and graduate programs in the biomedical sciences

In the past 3 years, there has been a 20% increase in the number of ODASIS students accepted to medical and graduate programs in the sciences in the past 3 years.

Since 1990, 358 ODASIS students from underrepresented groups have received their medical degrees, and 190 have become chiropractors, dentists, physician's assistants, podiatrists, doctors of osteopathy, physical therapists, nurses, and other allied health professionals.

ODASIS has doubled the # of students in the Merck Summer Chemistry Prep program in the past 4 years

The # of students accepted to Access-Med Phase II this year is twice the # accepted four years ago.
EOF Student Spotlight: Ydamis Estrella

ODASIS works in close collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF) of New Jersey to ensure the success of economically disadvantaged students matriculating into Rutgers University. ODASIS is grateful for EOF’s support in helping to fulfill ODASIS’s mission of increasing the number of underrepresented students entering the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. ODASIS continues to see its EOF students thrive and achieve their goals. In the past 3 years, 27 EOF students graduated with acceptance to graduate programs in medicine, dentistry, the biomedical sciences, and podiatry.

The strength of the EOF program student is exemplified by Ydamis Estrella, a native of the Dominican Republic, who emigrated from a small farm in Santiago at a young age of 10 knowing very little English. Ydamis initially experienced challenges in school due to her limited English and learned the language in a year by reading books available at her local public library. Despite the difficulties Ydamis and her family faced adjusting to life in the United States, she was encouraged by her parents to attend college. In her second year at Rutgers University, Ydamis was inspired to pursue medicine as she noted the relative lack of doctors available to the immigrant population and was referred to ODASIS through her EOF counselor. ODASIS supported Ydamis in chemistry and she believes this ensured her success in this course. Ydamis enrolled in the 2010-2011 ODASIS MCAT Preparatory Course and achieved the highest MCAT score of this year’s class, scoring in the 95th percentile nationally on this exam. Ydamis was accepted to New Jersey Medical School early decision which she will be attending in August 2012.

EOF ODASIS Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Chandan Ahuja, D.M.D.
After finishing Dental School in Boston, Dr. Ahuja is practicing in East Brunswick, NJ.

James Pierre-Louis, M.D.
RWJMS Class of 2002
Summit Anesthesia Associates
Summit, NJ

Rashonda Flowers-Dotson, M.D.
RWJMS Class of 2004
Physical Medicine Practice in Piscataway NJ.

Ricardo Verdiner, M.D.
NJMS Class of 2002
Anesthesiologist in Montclair, NJ
### 963 ODASIS GRADUATES FROM 1990-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Number (%)</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine (MD)</td>
<td>343 (35.6%)</td>
<td>Medicine / Public Health (MD / MPH)</td>
<td>4 (0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathy (DO)</td>
<td>52 (5.4%)</td>
<td>Chiropractic (DC)</td>
<td>3 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences (MBS)</td>
<td>63 (3.3%)</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering (MBE)</td>
<td>3 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry (DMD / DDS)</td>
<td>24 (2.5%)</td>
<td>Law (JD)</td>
<td>2 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Research</td>
<td>11 (1.1%)</td>
<td>Optometry (OD)</td>
<td>2 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant (PA)</td>
<td>9 (0.9%)</td>
<td>Medicine / Biomedical Sciences (MD / MBS)</td>
<td>2 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatry (DPM)</td>
<td>9 (0.9%)</td>
<td>Research (PhD)</td>
<td>2 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing (RN / BSN / LPN / MSN)</td>
<td>9 (0.9%)</td>
<td>Medicine / Business (MD / MBA)</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine / Research (MD / PhD)</td>
<td>8 (0.8%)</td>
<td>Osteopathy / Law (DO / JD)</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy (PharmD)</td>
<td>14 (1.5%)</td>
<td>Master of Science (MS)</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathy / Biomedical Sciences (DO / MBS)</td>
<td>7 (0.7%)</td>
<td>Veterinary (DVM)</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health (MPH)</td>
<td>6 (0.6%)</td>
<td>Other (e.g., business, education)</td>
<td>345 (42.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy (PT)</td>
<td>9 (0.9%)</td>
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### ODASIS Alumni Spotlight: Where Are They Now?

#### Neils Martin, M.D.
**RWJMS class of 2000**
Associate Program Director for Graduate Medical Education in the Department of Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

#### Pamela Juarez, D.M.D.
**UMDNJ—New Jersey Dental School class of 2008**
Dentist currently practicing in Newark, NJ.

#### Tomeka Saxon
After graduating, Tomeka began researching and is currently a Senior Chemist, BU Research, at Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry in New Jersey.

Over 75 Alumni gathered on April 20, 2011 for our 25th Anniversary Alumni Reception, sponsored by Dr. Didier Demesmin, Pain Management Specialist in Somerset NJ.
ODASIS Alumni Spotlight: Where Are They Now?

Luis Vera, D.C.  
New York Chiropractic College  
Serves as the Chairman of the International Board of Electrodiagnosis and practices at Regional Chiropractic Group in FL.

Guy Francis, M.D.  
New Jersey Medical School Graduate who has a family practice in Maplewood, NJ.

Owano Pennycooke, M.D.  
New Jersey Medical School Class of 2003  
Board Certified General Surgeon, who is fellowship trained in Vascular and Advanced Endovascular Surgery.

Luis Mora, D.O.  
Board Certified Podiatrist practicing in Iselin, NJ.

Shelly Ann Murray Pennycooke, D.O.  
UMDNJ-SOM Class of 2004  
Practicing Emergency Medicine in NJ.

Troy Randle, D.O.  
UMDNJ-SOM Class of 2003  
Board certified in Internal Medicine and plans to practice as a clinical cardiologist at South Jersey Heart Group after completion of his fellowship.

Richard Martinez, M.D.  
New Jersey Medical School Graduate  
Anesthesiologist practicing in Englewood NJ.

Lasanta Horana M.D.  
RWJMS Class of 2001  
Chief Physician, RWJ University Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine in Hamilton, NJ.
You Matched!

Jose Otero, M.D.  
(EOF)  
RWJMS Class of 2011  
Newark, NJ  
Anesthesiology

Latoya Khalil,  
D.O.  
UMDNJ-SOM Class of 2011  
Newark, NJ  
Emergency Medicine

Dare Ajibade,  
M.D., PhD., M.P.H.  
NJMS Class of 2011  
Short Hills, NJ  
Otolaryngology

Erika Concepcion,  
M.D.  
NJMS Class of 2011  
New York, NY  
Psychiatry

Gustavo Churango, M.D.  
NJMS Class of 2011  
New York, NY  
Surgery

Macede Elwin,  
M.D.  
Yale University School of Medicine Class of 2011  
Columbia, NJ  
Anesthesiology

Stephanie Torres  
D.O.  
(EOF)  
UMDNJ-SOM Class of 2011  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Pediatrics

Kenji Hamanaka,  
M.D.  
NJMS Class of 2011  
Pennsylvania  
Surgery
Congratulations! Accepted ODASIS Students in 2011

Jeneba Abass-Shereef (Phase II)
Edwin Acevedo (Phase II)
Naznin Ahmed (EOF)
Dominick Ambrose
Mario Angulo* (EOF)
Jennifer Anyanwu
Ngozi Anyaoku
Antanique Brown (Phase II) (EOF)
Lessley Chiriboga
Paul Chirichella (BA/MD)
Krystal Covin*
Tejal Darji (EOF)
Laura Diaz (Phase II)
Magdalena Dorvil* (EOF)
Chidinma Ezeonu (BA/MD)
Nicole Ferro* (EOF)
Raul Flores*
Brittany Gladney
Michele Gomez
Elkins Guzman
Jaleel Hall (EOF)
Andrew Harrison
Olamide Ifafotuji (Phase II)
Kiara Johnson*
Manal Kazi*
Mabel Mayorga
Sanskheet McKay (Phase II)
Matthew Meleka
Friscilla Miguez*
Lauren Napoleon* (EOF)
Rachel Odeyemi
Karla Perez
Natasha Ramsey (EOF)
Jaclyn Rodriguez*
Betsy Rojas (EOF)
Roberto Ruiz
Parin Shah (EOF)
Olutomi Sodeke*
Oguguo Uzoaru*
Zakiyyah Waters*
UMDNJ — RWJMS
UMDNJ — RWJMS
St. Georges University School of Medicine
Columbia College of Dental Medicine
Ross University School of Medicine
UMDNJ — Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Rutgers School of Nursing
UMDNJ — RWJMS
UMDNJ — RWJMS
UMDNJ — NJMS
UMDNJ — NJMS
UMDNJ — New Jersey Dental School
UMDNJ — RWJMS
Vanderbilt School of Medicine
UMDNJ — NJMS
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
UMDNJ — NJMS
UMDNJ — NJMS
UMDNJ — School of Health Related Professions
UMDNJ — SOM
UMDNJ — NJMS (early decision)
Temple University — School of Medicine
UMDNJ — RWJMS
Philadelphia University of the Sciences — Physical Therapy
NYU College of Dentistry
UMDNJ — NJMS (early decision)
UMDNJ — RWJMS
UMDNJ — SOM
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
UMDNJ - Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Columbia College of Dental Medicine
NYU School of Medicine
UMDNJ - School of Health Related Professions (Physical Therapy)
Accepted Post — Baccalaureate
Temple University — Kornberg School of Dentistry
UMDNJ — SOM
UMDNJ — NJMS
UMDNJ — NJMS
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Congratulations! Newly Accepted Access Med Students

The # of students accepted to Access-Med Phase II this year is 2X the amount accepted four years ago.

Pictured from Left to Right:
Wylie Lopez
Shantel Suncar
Elizabeth Beckford
Michelle Walker
Claudia Herreros
Amaka Onwuka
Christopher Perez
Rutgers University
Kenneth J. Breslauer, PhD
Vice President for Health Science Partnerships
Dean of the Division of Life Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences

Division of Life Sciences
Educational Opportunity Fund
Central Office
Johnson & Johnson
New Brunswick Tomorrow
New Brunswick Public Schools, Mr. Richard Kaplan
The African American Fund
New Jersey Medical School Student Alumni

On behalf of the Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences and the students we serve, thank you for your support.

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Get Involved!
The overwhelming success of ODASIS is made possible by our generous sponsors and donors who desire to partner with us to further the work we are doing. If you would like to become an ODASIS partner, please contact us by calling 732-445-6878 or by emailing odasis@biology.rutgers.edu. Your donations are tax-deductible.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey