



ODASIS Newsletter

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 859 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

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

in-class computer learning session as well as the online compo-

nent. The course provides more flexibility for many students at Rutgers University. We are also now offering brand new DAT and GRE courses.

Inside this issue:

25th Anniversary Celebration!	3
High School Programs	3
Summer Research Programs	4
EOF Spotlight	5
Alumni Spotlight	6,7
New ODASIS Alumni	8
Accepted ODASIS Students	10

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. Neils Martin, a trauma surgeon currently practicing at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. This was followed by words of encouragement by Dr. Carol Terregino, Associate Dean of Ad-

missions at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The night concluded with a thoughtful speech discussing health disparities in the U.S. by Mr. Diaz, father of Access-Med Phase II student Laura Diaz. 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 Alf Olufade, 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 infor-



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

mation 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.

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. Bangyan 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 acceptances 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

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

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.



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.

Tomeka Saxon

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



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., Ph.D.,
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



**Macdale 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 Ifaturoti **(Phase II)**

Kiara Johnson*

Manal Kazi*

Mabel Mayorga

Sanshalee McKay **(Phase II)**

Matthew Meleka

Priscilla 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

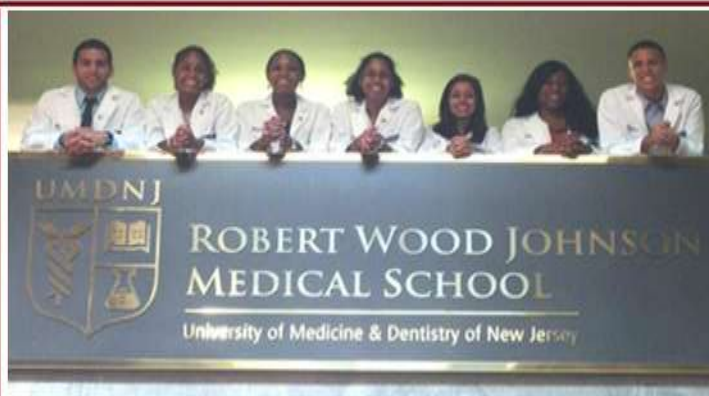
UMDNJ – NJMS

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

ODASIS

Office for Diversity and
Academic Success in the
Sciences

*Promoting diversity and academic
achievement in the sciences.*



OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN THE SCIENCES

The programs and services offered through the Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences are made possible through grants and support from:

**Division of Life Sciences,
School of Arts and Sciences
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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.

Rutgers University

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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.

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