

ODASIS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11



Upcoming Events

ODASIS Open House
Saturday, April 9, 2016

**30th Anniversary ODASIS
Graduation and Awards Ceremony**
Thursday, April 28, 2016

**Office for Diversity
and Academic
Success in the
Sciences (ODASIS)**

RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences



Thanks to all alumni donors!

ODASIS would like to thank all alumni for their generosity and contributions and would like to highlight those that donated during 2014-2015:

Fran Abanyie, M.D./M.P.H. '01

Mr. Abraham Addy & Mrs. Vera Addy

Nadine Bloomfield. O.D. '09

Carl Casimir, M.D. '09

Didier Demesmin, M.D. '94

Karen Duarte, Physician Assistant '02

Mrs. Xenia Feliz

Rashonda Flowers-Dotson, M.D. '00

Mr. Norberto and Mrs. Maria Guzman

Darryl Hill, M.D. '91

Tanya Howard-Williams, M.D. '00

Robert Mensah, D.D.S. '03

Luis Mora, D.P.M. '03

Chidubem Okafor, D.O. '05

Owano Pennycooke, M.D. '99

James Pierre Louis, M.D. '96

The Prado Family

Troy Randle, D.O. '96

Esi Rhett, M.D. '02

Angelique Ridore, M.D. '04

Esperanza C. Sanchez, M. D. '96

Tiffany Terrelongue Martinez, D.O. '05

Ricardo Verdiner, M.D. '98

Danielle Wright, M.D. '08

Yonatan Yohannes, M. D. '08

Words of Welcome from Dr. Breslauer



In 1986, the Office of Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS) was developed within the Division of Life Sciences with the vision of establishing equal opportunities for underrepresented and disadvantaged students wishing to pursue careers in the health professions. For the past 29 years, ODASIS has encouraged a broad pool of students to develop their talents and realize their full potential as they train for professions within the STEM fields. Along this exciting yet challenging path of personal discovery, ODASIS has provided students with the motivation

and support required to pursue their dreams. The dedicated ODASIS staff continues to work tirelessly to eliminate disparities in education and professional opportunities.

For nearly three decades, ODASIS has served as a stepping stone for students; creating a network of faculty, staff, students, sponsors, and alumni, all of whom have generated a culture of excellence buttressed by invaluable life-long relationships. The growth of ODASIS is testimony to the expanding student and societal needs fulfilled by its mission. Throughout our history, 1,130 students have graduated from the ODASIS program, of which 441 have entered the medical field.

We also have witnessed a significant increase in the number of students who have participated in the Summer Preparatory and Academic Support Programs; nearly doubling in the last 4 years. The Educational Opportunity Fund has been a steady supporter of the ODASIS mission. Through their funding, over the past 4 years ODASIS has been able to assist 43 EOF students achieve their goals of entering health related careers.

The centrality of ODASIS to the University's mission is further reflected by its inclusion as part of the Rutgers-New Brunswick Strategic Plan; thereby, symbolizing the importance of diversity and culture at our university.

The 2014-2015 academic year has been a remarkable one for ODASIS. It has truly been a pleasure to watch ODASIS students graduate and move on to their professional careers. We congratulate our students on their accomplishments and look forward to their future successes.

Dr. Kenneth J. Breslauer

Vice President for Health Science Partnerships

Dean of Life Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences

A Word of Thanks from our Alumni

With a passion that extends far beyond his practice, Didier Demesmin, M.D. has made sure to give back to those less fortunate through mentoring and scholarships.



The contributions made by ODASIS alumni have been essential in helping ODASIS achieve its mission of increasing diversity in science and medicine through mentorship, participation in ODASIS events, and through generous donations. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 25 ODASIS alumni contributed to the ODASIS program by funding trips to medical schools, scholarships, as well as the purchase of textbooks.

The trip to the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine was an interactive experience for the 60 students who attended; it offered students a glimpse of the different teaching methods used in medical schools. During the trip to Temple University School of Medicine, the 54 students in attendance were given a tour of the school. Medical school trips are important as students can meet with admission members, learn about programs from students' first-hand experience, and assess

what aspects of a medical school program are of greatest importance to them.

Through the generous support of our alumni, ODASIS was afforded the opportunity to award three students the ODASIS Summer Scholarship towards summer science classes. These scholarships made it possible for these hardworking, highly motivated students to continue their studies. We are hoping in the near future that more alumni and donors will be able to support these scholarships.

Additionally, Dr. Didier Demesmin, pain medicine specialist and ODASIS alum, awarded Ms. Janet Onuoha the Dr. Didier Demesmin Summer 2015 Scholarship. In addition to providing monetary support for her summer science courses, Dr. Demesmin has also invited Ms. Onuoha to receive exposure to the field of pain management at his office. Dr. Demesmin has been a consistent source of support to our program and we would like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation.

Through the generosity of ODASIS alumni, our department can continue its mission of providing assistance to a greater number of students. The support of our alumni is truly an invaluable asset to our programs.

Did you know...

In 2014, the AAMC ranked Rutgers University–New Brunswick as...

#5 out of 62 in number of African American applicants to medical school

#10 out of 64 in number of Asian applicants to medical school

#27 out of 31 in number of Puerto Rican applicants to medical school

#32 out of 99 in number of Hispanic Latino applicants to medical school

www.aamc.org/data/facts

In the 2014-2015, a total of 121 EOF students participated in the Academic Support Programs.

30 EOF students enrolled in the Academic Support Program for General Biology

41 EOF students enrolled in the Academic Support Program for General Chemistry

37 EOF students enrolled in the Academic Support Program for Organic Chemistry

95 EOF students enrolled in the Academic Support Program for Math and Statistics

26 EOF students enrolled in the Academic Support Program for Physics

18 EOF students enrolled in the Academic Support Program for Upper Level Sciences

Power Couples

Throughout the years, ODASIS has served as a means through which students gain academic advising and support. However, there is one realm within ODASIS where a special few gain much more: a life partner. Many of these couples have gone on to become professionals in their fields and so the term “Power Couple” seems applicable in these cases. Here, they share with us their stories of what their journeys have been like thus far.

Dr. Jessica Simon and Dr. Pedro Rodriguez



Dr. Jessica Simon is an M.D. specializing in Pediatric Dermatology while Dr. Pedro Rodriguez earned his Ph. D. in Cancer Genetics, with a sub-specialty in Cancer Cell Biology. They are a prime example of what can be achieved when two like-minded and highly motivated individuals join forces and support each other. “We had these goals but they seemed very unreachable at the time...We both came from humble backgrounds and humble families. We both achieved our goals thus far... It’s amazing and I don’t think I would have made it without him,” explains Dr. Simon. His intelligence had caught her attention, even prior to them officially meeting during an

ODASIS Biology tutoring session. It wasn’t until then that they became best friends. “I came to love how she valued family, how silly and adorable she was, her many laughs...and of course her beauty...I think those beautiful eyes drew me in first. I was in love.” They have now been happily married for 13 years and recently had a baby boy.

Through their many accomplishments, Dr. Simon and Dr. Rodriguez have gained a deep-rooted understanding of the mentality that is necessary to succeed. They advise students to never give up. For students who have been discouraged, Dr. Simon would like to remind them that while others may be unaware of their potential, it is up to the students to develop their own sense of confidence. In order to do so, she explains that students need to take one task at a time and set goals for each day. Accomplishing these goals will develop confidence over time.

The couple will be moving back to New Jersey, where Dr. Simon will be practicing in Princeton, NJ as a Pediatric Dermatologist.

Both Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Simon measure success by “how happy one is with their own life’s journey.” Through their journey, Dr. Simon and Dr. Rodriguez have left their mark on ODASIS as one of its exceptional “Power Couples.”

Dr. Owano Pennycooke and Dr. Shelley Ann Pennycooke



Owano Pennycooke, M.D. Class of 1999
Shelley Ann Pennycooke, D.O. Class of 2000

Dr. Owano Pennycooke is currently a vascular surgeon, while Dr. Shelley Ann Pennycooke is an emergency medicine physician. Attaining their goals could not have been possible without their motivation to succeed. Drs. Pennycooke met during the summer while taking Biology at Rutgers. They spent more time together during the Biomedical Careers Program at Robert Wood Johnson after which they remained together. Shelley Ann further explains that “when we ended college we knew

we wanted to get married and we decided if we’re going to go through this tough journey it’s better to go through it together. So that’s what we did.” In their now fourteen years of marriage, they continue to have the same outlook: to go through this tough journey in each other’s company.

Though their fields are not the same, both physicians benefit from each other’s knowledge. Owano explained that they often draw from their collective expertise. There have been times that he has had the fortune to have Shelley Ann give him insight, since her field allows her to see a broader spectrum of cases compared to his caseload. Similarly, she has relied on Owano regarding vascular issues. Their joint efforts have been praised by their patients, who emphasized that both doctors have a great bedside manner and communicate with empathy.

Most of all, they want to highlight the importance of living through the experiences and not focusing on the destination. “You’re going to learn lessons in your journey. There are principles that I have learned from Dr. Khan and ODASIS that relate to what I’m doing now. We would advise to enjoy the process and not to lose sight of being with your family and friends.”

Dr. Ricken Patel and Dr. Gayon Hyatt



Ricken Patel, D.M.D. Class of 2005
Gayon Hyatt, M.D. Class of 2005

When asked to define what a “Power Couple” is, Dr. Ricken Patel explained it as a couple that uplifts and supports one another in times of adversity and prosperity. “Throughout the last 11 years, we have been there for one another and have grown so much together. We have taken the road less traveled to get to where we are which has allowed our relationship to grow exponentially.” Dr. Hyatt also agreed with his remarks by stating, “A power couple is two individuals who bring a lot to the table and combine their forces to become an even stronger force.”

Dr. Patel was first introduced to Dr. Hyatt through the Biomedical Careers Program (BCP) at Rutgers- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “My friend was sitting next to me and I turned to him and said ‘she’s mine.’” Upon getting to know Dr. Hyatt, Dr. Patel expressed how his admiration for her, though at first based on her appearance, developed by learning about her as a person. He describes her as a strong, graceful, independent, funny, and caring woman. Dr. Hyatt highlights Dr. Patel’s good humor as she explained that “he had mastered making me smile.”

Dr. Ricken Patel is a general dentist and Dr. Gayon Hyatt is a family physician. Both doctors have attained a significant amount of success through their work, no doubt a result of their ideals of what it means to be successful. Dr. Patel defines success by, “what you take and what you give back on a daily basis,” while Dr. Hyatt describes it as “an overall peace of mind.” Both are living out these definitions to the fullest with Dr. Patel recently opening his own practice in South Brunswick, NJ and Dr. Hyatt as a chief resident at Mountainside Hospital. Ricken and Gayon’s story provides a glimpse at a couple that will continue to grow together and support each other as they keep working towards achieving their dreams of giving back.

Student Spotlight: Lauren Evans

Access Med Ceremony

Three hundred guests attended the May 1, 2015 Access Med Ceremony honoring the 2014-2015 MCAT class and the 66 ODASIS class of 2015 students going to and 30 alumni graduating in 2015 from medical, dental, osteopathic, and other graduate schools.

Dr. Jay Tischfield, Duncan and Nancy Macmillan Distinguished Professor of Genetics and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Rutgers-RWJMS, described his professional journey and inspired the audience to stay true to one's goals.

Alister Martin, M.D., an ODASIS alumnus and Harvard Medical School class of 2015, encouraged ODASIS students with the story of his journey to medical school.

Dr. George Heinrich, Associate Dean of Admissions and Special Programs at Rutgers-NJMS, received an ODASIS Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of 28 years of collaborative work with ODASIS.



On the first day of our third year orientation, the Access Med students and myself gathered for lunch on the concrete benches outside Rutgers- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. We looked over the lawn at the Allison Road Classroom building joking about how far we had come (about a five minute walk across the grass). This reflection came in the wake of our preparation for and completion of the mythical beast of preclinical years: the USMLE Step 1 board examination. I began to think on the changes that I had undergone throughout the first years of medical school, what I had done right, and what I would do differently.

The personal challenges of my first year related to the idea of being the first in my family to attend medical school and becoming confident in my abilities as a student. To me, the focus was no longer on being the smartest in the class or attaining the highest score on an exam. Instead it was about working as hard as possible in a consistent manner and humbling yourself to be able to accept that it is, in fact, impossible to drink all the water from the fire hose of medical knowledge. I acclimated to being around people who I initially found intimidating; students who had achieved great things academically, personally and socially. But with every challenge comes opportunity. By the end of this year I had gotten to know some truly kind, intelligent and hard working students from all different backgrounds. I learned that the concept of diversity is not exclusive to race after all. On an academic level, I became more independent in my learning style and

confident in my ability to succeed as a medical student.

The second year was truly a challenge academically. It tests not only your mental fortitude but also your physical health (ie: sitting 10 hours a day). The topics were broader, concepts were more complex, and the stakes were higher as everything we learned was tagged with the thought that it may be on 'the boards.' As the year progressed we discovered that the presentation of a seemingly insurmountable amount of information to us was actually teaching us to assimilate information faster, better and in a way that would stay with us for the long term. By the end we were tougher, with great mental (and physical) stamina beyond anything we ever thought we could achieve.

Advice I would give to my undergraduate self? Keep your eye on the prize, but always savor the moments of learning, even including the occasional boredom and all the craziness. Stay consistent: adrenaline and caffeine are not enough to achieve your greatest potential. Being able to tap into your passions is what will enable you work hard everyday despite distractions and perhaps feeling tired. Know the reasons you do what you do and hold on to them with an iron fist but still respect that those reasons may evolve as you grow as a person. Lastly, take care of yourself. Hold on to the hobbies you love, don't be afraid to accept help when you need it and keep your friends and family close- a team effort will enable you to achieve your greatest potential for success.

High Achievers



On Friday, February 20th, 2015, ODASIS hosted the High Achievers Recognition Ceremony in the Fiber Optics Auditorium on Busch Campus to recognize 1st and 2nd year students who successfully demonstrated their diligence and commitment to academic excellence in the sciences by achieving a science and term GPA of 3.0 or higher. In total, 73 of our most outstanding students were in attendance. Dean Michael Beals delivered the keynote address regarding the importance of Mathematics in relation to the sciences, which resonated strongly with our students.

Hector Osoria, an ODASIS alum who graduated from Weill Cornell Medical College this year, also gave a speech regarding his experiences from his undergraduate years all the way through medical school, medical school expectations and how to optimize your candidacy, and the necessity of maintaining good grades. We were also pleased to present Chemistry instructor, Dr. Emmanuel Hove, with an ODASIS Award for Distinguished Teaching and Service in recognition of the exceptional service he provides to ODASIS students.

The ceremony helped to serve as an inspiration to the students to maintain their strong academic performances and to keep aiming high to attain their goals each academic year.

Motivational Workshop



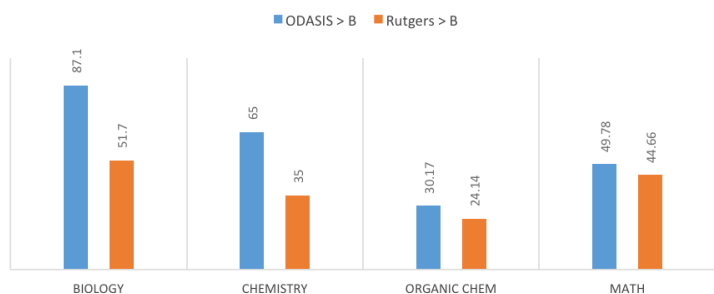
500 students attended the 2014 ODASIS Motivational Workshop on November 21, 2014, with 58 professional schools representing medical, podiatry, nursing, graduate, public health, osteopathic, dental, medical technology, physician assistant, pharmacy, optometry, veterinary, and physical therapy programs from across the country. Students learned more about these programs and Rutgers University Career Services, which aims to help them focus on their undergraduate studies and visualize specific goals for their futures.

Two ODASIS alumni delivered inspiring speeches: Raul Flores M.D. (Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Class of 2015) and Alister Martin, M.D. /M.P.P (Harvard Medical School Class of 2015). We also welcomed Felicia McGinty, Ed.D, Rutgers Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, as our 2014 Motivational Keynote Speaker, who advised student to never give up despite obstacles students may face along their path to success.

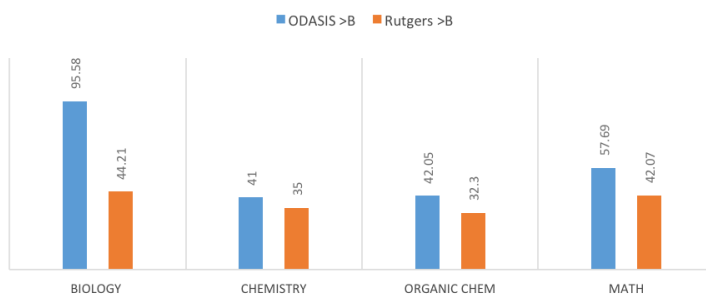
All of the speakers shared one message with the students that resonated long after the workshop was over: the road to success is difficult, but with perseverance and focus students can achieve their goals.

ODASIS Students Make the Grade

PERCENTAGE OF ODASIS STUDENTS RECEIVING GRADES OF B OR HIGHER FALL 2014



PERCENTAGE OF ODASIS STUDENTS RECEIVING GRADES OF B OR HIGHER SPRING 2015



Summer Research Programs

80 ODASIS students participated in summer research programs in 2015. Students shared with us the research in which they participated and the results obtained. These students expressed their enthusiasm for learning new skills and knowledge this past summer, and their hopes of continuing to do research along their careers.



Victor Mensah
New Jersey Medical School –
North East Regional Alliance (NERA) MedPrep Program

Even though the sexually transmitted infection Syphilis is a very treatable disease, it still remains one of the biggest public health issues worldwide, affecting tens of millions of people each year. This issue is most pressing in third world countries where due to the stigma surrounding S.T.I.s, people who become infected chose not to seek treatment. As part of my NERA research component this summer, I worked in the labs of Dr. Nikhat Parveen at New Jersey Medical School doing protein purification of the bacteria *Treponema pallidum*; the disease causing agent of syphilis. My research was part of the lab's attempt to find a vaccine for this disease.



Hector Lisboa
Rutgers New Brunswick- RiSE

My research focused on the effects of the polyphenols found in Rutgers Scarlet Lettuce (RSL) on the gut microbiota of rodents. An unhealthy gut is associated with metabolic syndrome (MetS), which increases the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. My results showed that mice fed a RSL-supplemented high-fat diet slightly improved the gut microbiota profile by increasing the percentage of bacteria that exhibited a healthy gut phenotype, but it remained poorer than the profile of control group mice that were fed low-fat diets. A comparison of these results to a grape polyphenol (GP) study provides evidence that the proanthocyanidins (a type of polyphenol) found in GP could be the key ingredient in anti-MetS dietary supplementation.



Samantha Casimir
Johns Hopkins Medicine- Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Cytokinesis in bacteria is regulated by a multi-protein complex called the divisome. Central to the divisome is FtsZ, a cytoskeletal protein that polymerizes at mid-cell into a ring structure called the Z-ring. The Z-ring defines the future site of division, acts as a scaffold for other division proteins, and potentially provides the constrictive force required for invagination of the cell wall. Since FtsZ is essential for cell division, mutants of FtsZ can have lethal effects. One such mutant, FtsZ Δ CTL, causes cell elongation, bulging, and rapid lysis, through misregulation of the cell wall machinery. We performed a genetic screen for suppressors of the dominant lethal effects of FtsZ Δ CTL in *Caulobacter crescentus* to identify factors involved in regulating FtsZ function. We were able to identify 51 suppressor strains with a wide range of morphologies. After eliminating strains that lacked expression of FtsZ Δ CTL or contained a mutation in the FtsZ Δ CTL gene, we shortlisted over 20 strains containing extragenic mutations. We plan to perform whole genome sequencing on these strains to further our understanding of how FtsZ is regulated and identify potential targets for antibiotic development.



Diana Torres
University of Southern California –
KECK School of Medicine

This summer I participated in Bridging the Gaps Summer Research Program at Keck School of Medicine of USC. I worked in Dr. McDonough's laboratory, which focuses on the molecular mechanisms of homeostasis, especially blood pressure and the kidney. I worked in a project in collaboration with Dr. Adenuga, a nephrologist at LAC + USC Medical Center. The project was a cross-sectional study that aims to investigate if there is a correlation between urinary potassium relative to sodium, blood pressure, and kidney function in patients with chronic kidney disease. Overall my role in this project was to initiate the analysis and establish the protocols for the assays that will be use later on in the study. From this preliminary analysis we concluded that there is a segment of the patients with chronic kidney disease that could benefit from a higher potassium intake.



Nia Carty
W. M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience

This summer, I participated in the first summer program hosted by the W. M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience, where I studied the neuroimmune response to spinal cord injury. The overall goal of this project is to determine the mechanisms and consequences of spinal cord injury (SCI) induced immunosuppression in F344 rats, and whether or not differences of immunosuppression in male and female rats explain why female rats recover more function than their male counterparts after SCI. Finally, we aim to relate these findings to the 4:1 male: female ratio in human SCI. By examining the different inflammatory cells and their roles in SCI, we can decipher what cells assist in regeneration and/or repair of the spinal cord, and potentially block the cells, which may inhibit post SCI recovery. We also aim to conduct a clinical study in order to corroborate our findings with clinical evidence.



Raymond Amponsah
Biomedical Careers Program Level III, Rutgers- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

The translation between macroscopic and microscopic trauma in central nervous system injury is uncharacterized. Microscopic features that may influence the response of axons to tissue-level stress include tortuosity, myelination, axon diameter and connecting proteins. Work in our lab has shown that axo-glia proteins at the nodes of ranvier can be used as fiducial markers to measure (inter-nodal) length changes along the axon. Because caspr proteins occur in pairs along axons they can be used to estimate the internodal length of the axon and the para-nodal length between individual occurrences in a pair of caspr proteins. Previous studies have shown that the axons of 12-day old chick embryo shows a more non-affine structure with a 1:1 transfer of tissue-level stretch to estimated axonal strain due to the absence of myelination. On the other hand the axons in 18-day chick embryo which exhibit more affine kinematic behavior showed a greater increase in path length with given stretch, deviating from this 1:1 transfer seen at earlier development. The objective of this study is to use changes in the end to end inter-nodal and para-nodal lengths with tissue-level stretch to estimate axonal strain on a tissue with moderate myelination and connecting proteins.

High School Programs



ODASIS has partnered with New Brunswick Public Schools to strengthen the education of New Brunswick students for over 20 years through the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Supplemental Instruction Program, Bridge to Employment (BTE), Saturday Scholars SAT Prep Academy, and the 12th Grade Rutgers College English Program. Developmental Specialist Tiffany Nesbey attributes the programs' successes to partners, including instructors, parents, and school faculty; but the key component centers on the students helping each other. Students enrolled in these rigorous programs demonstrate great dedication and commitment to their futures. Graduating senior Felix Blanco, who worked on his personal development in both the Saturday Scholars and Rutgers College English programs, was accepted to Cornell University this fall. Students have the platform to excel through the ODASIS High School Programs, as demonstrated by the high success rate.



EOF Student

The importance of the partnership between ODASIS, the Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF), and Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS) is exemplified through the success of Brandon Roberson, an alumnus from the Class of 2015. On August 7, 2015,

Brandon Roberson donned his white coat as he commemorated the first milestone of his medical education at Rutgers-RWJMS.

Brandon was introduced to the ODASIS program through the EOF Summer Enrichment Program. Since the fall semester of his first year, he has been an avid participant in the ODASIS Academic Support Program and the Access Med Program. In addition, during the summers following his second and third years, Brandon participated in the Biomedical Careers Program (BCP), Level II and Level III, at Rutgers-RWJMS. He values the cognitive skills, and clinical and research experiences that he gained through BCP. Brandon participated in the ODASIS MCAT Preparation course and the Access-Med Phase II program at RWJMS. Brandon believes that ODASIS has been instrumental in his academic achievements.

In his own words, he expresses his appreciation for the ODASIS program: "ODASIS is the best support system I have had while in college. I firmly believe that ODASIS has constructed a path for me to get into medical school, and I have just followed the steps."

Summer Prep

One of the ODASIS program's greatest achievements this year was the inclusion of the five week Summer Chemistry Preparatory and Academic Support Program as part of the New Brunswick Strategic Plan. Along with the continued support of the Merck & Co., Inc., a total of 37 Rutgers students were welcomed into the program. Students were provided with the opportunity to develop and enhance their skills with credit-bearing work in Chemistry, Calculus, and Expository Writing.

The program incorporated academic advancement through such preparatory courses developed by Dr. Darrin York of the Chemistry Department. Professional development opportunities were also offered through workshops and guest speakers from the STEM and health allied professions.

Having successfully completed the Summer Preparatory & Academic Support Program, students have gained valuable experience and will be given further support upon enrollment in ODASIS through individual academic and career advisement throughout their undergraduate careers. 25 students have enrolled in General Chemistry in the 2015 fall semester, and

12 students enrolled in Biology due to the outcomes from their summer Chemistry grades. Thanks to Rutgers New Brunswick Strategic Plan and Merck & Co., Inc. for supporting a program that shows results.

100%

of students in ODASIS high school programs were accepted and went on to attend Rutgers or other Universities

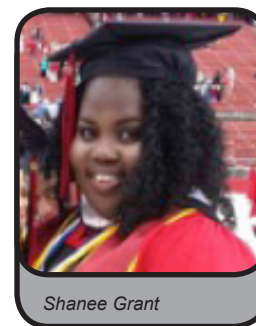
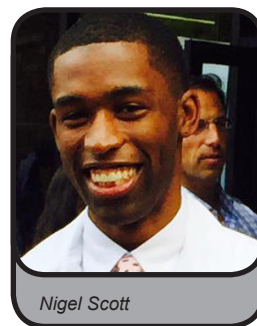
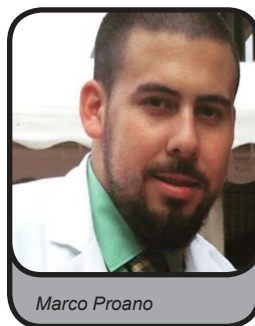
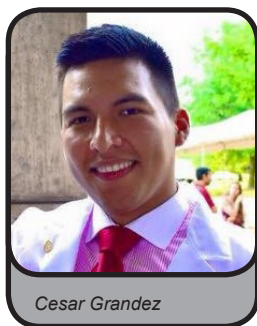
Class of 2015: 26 of 26

Class of 2014: 22 of 22

Class of 2013: 23 of 23

Class of 2012: 36 of 36

Congrats to the Class of 2015



Graduating Seniors accepted to Dental, Graduate Medical, Osteopathic, Physical Therapy, MD/PhD and BA/MD Programs

Rutgers–RWJMS

Ashley Abbott
Omowunmi Adedeji
Ifeoluwa Aridegbe
Ashley Brown
Oluwatoyin Dada
Yousef Elfanagely
Brandon Roberson *
Amanda Piedra
Tori Gartmond
Kwesi Dawson-Amoah
Gerardo Lopez

Rutgers–NJMS

Dolani Ajanaku
Janet Alvarez
Carain Bonner
Andre Esteves
Cesar Grandez
Valerie O'Besso
David Prado
Marco Proano
Nicole Reynoso
Nigel Scott
Michele Wright
Lemuel Rodriguez

Rowan University

School of Osteopathic Medicine
Kimberly Agbo
Dorellie Owusu *
Gannat Shalan
Melissa Valarezo
Diana Vargas
John Zadroga
Kimyetta Robinson *
Cooper Medical School
Edward Egan
Ziyoda Abdujabborova *
Elyse Candelaria
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Jenna Lee
Aslihan Sahin

USC Keck School of Medicine

Shanee Grant *
Chioma Moneme
Djani Robertson

EOF Students

Valeria Carchi
Shanequa Evans
Esther Exantus
Wendy Flores
Oumou Keita
Shernelle Pringle
Rebeka Rodas
Ernesto Rodriguez

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Mabel Majekodunmi
Otito Osadebe

Physical Therapy Programs

Daniel Botros–University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
Raveena Dhruve–Rowan School of Health Related Professions
Aimiosinor Igetei–Columbia University
Yealisha Kamara–Rutgers School of Health Related Professions

Dental Programs

Gregory Beauzil–Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Christina Belgrave–Howard University School of Dental Medicine
Divya Trikanad–UPENN School of Dental Medicine
Olivia Ike–Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Other Professional Programs

Kevin Oshiokepkhai–Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine
Jasmine Vickers–Thomas Jefferson University–School of Nursing
(Scholarship Recipient)

Physician Assistant Programs

Kayvon Ameri–Rutgers School of Health Related Professions
Monique Rice–Long Island University

ODASIS Seniors and Alumni Entering the Workforce and Research Programs

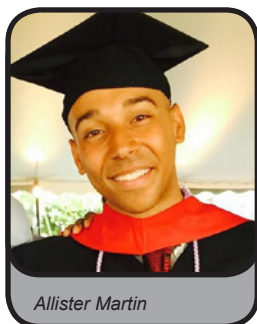
Phu Huynh *–Research at the National Institute on Aging (NIA)
Jaykumar Patel *–Research
James Rodrigues–Research in Longevity and Health Span at Nelson Laboratories
Oluwaseun Joseph–Workforce
Nicholas Silva–Workforce
Caresse Simmonds –Workforce
Camisha Dubose–Workforce– Amazon.com

Other Medical Programs

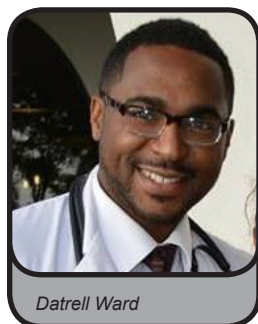
Alexus Cooper–Jefferson Medical College
Vaughn Powell–Trinity School of Medicine
Ricardo Pulido–NYU School of Medicine
Ruben Salazar–UPENN School of Medicine
Fady Youssef–Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
Karandeep Singh–Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Hamelmal Kassahun–University of Alabama School of Medicine
Shawn Ahmad Chaustre–Temple University School of Medicine

* Indicates an EOF Student

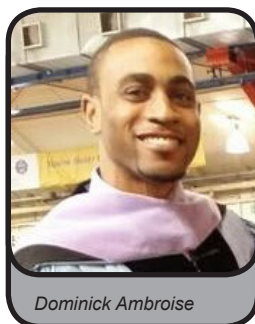
Congrats to Alumni Graduating in 2015



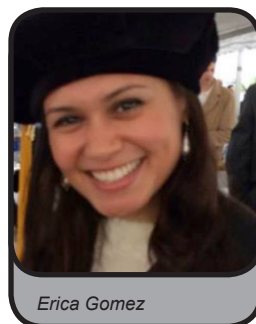
Allister Martin



Datrell Ward



Dominick Ambrose



Erica Gomez



Jeneba Abass-Shereef

ODASIS Alumni Graduating in 2015 from Graduate, Doctoral, or Professional Programs

Rutgers-NJMS

Stephanie Adjei-Twum
Junie Denis
Raul Flores
Ornella Lemonius
Mabel Mayorga
Denisse Reyes
Selorm Takyi
Oguguo Uzoaru
Datrell Ward
Israel Saramago

Rutgers-RWJMS

Jeneba Abass-Shereef *
Edwin Acevedo
Antanique Brown *
Laura Diaz
Olamide Ifaturoti
SanshaLee McKay

Rutgers Graduate School

Adenrele Akintobi

Rutgers-Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Adenrele Akintobi

1130 ODASIS GRADUATES FROM 1990-2015

| Profession | Number (%) | Profession | Number (%) |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| Medicine (MD) | 442 (39.1%) | Medicine / Public Health (MD / MPH) | 4 (0.4%) |
| Osteopathy (DO) | 76 (6.7%) | Chiropractic (DC) | 4 (0.4%) |
| Biomedical Sciences (MBS) | 41 (3.6%) | Biomedical Engineering (MBE) | 3 (0.3%) |
| Dentistry (DMD / DDS) | 30 (2.6%) | Law (JD) | 3 (0.3%) |
| Biomedical Research | 13 (1.1%) | Optometry (OD) | 4 (0.4%) |
| Physician Assistant (PA) | 11 (0.9%) | Medicine / Biomedical Sciences (MD / MBS) | 3 (0.3%) |
| Podiatry (DPM) | 12 (1.1%) | Research (PhD) | 3 (0.2%) |
| Nursing (RN / BSN / LPN / MSN) | 10 (0.9%) | Medicine / Business (MD / MBA) | 1 (0.1%) |
| Medicine / Research (MD / PhD) | 8 (0.7%) | Osteopathy / Law (DO / JD) | 1 (0.1%) |
| Pharmacy (Pharm D) | 17 (1.5%) | Master of Science (MS) | 1 (0.1%) |
| Osteopathy / Biomedical Sciences (DO / MBS) | 7 (0.6%) | Veterinary (DVM) | 2 (0.2%) |
| Public Health (MPH) | 6 (0.5%) | Other (e.g., business, education) | 412 (36.5%) |
| Physical Therapy (PT) | 16 (1.4%) | | |

Rowan University

Dominique Dompore
Erica Gomez *
Elkins Guzman
Sunah Kim *
Tejal Darji *

Other Universities

Nicole Ferro * - West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Dominick Ambrose - Columbia University
Karla Perez - Columbia University
Andrew Harrison - Temple University School of Medicine
Olutomi Sodeke - Temple University School of Medicine
Alister Martin - Harvard Medical School
Hector Osoria - Weill Cornell Medical School

* Indicates an EOF Student



ODASIS high achievers were invited by President Barchi and his wife Dr. Francis Barchi to a special reception held in recognition of students' academic achievements, excellence in research, and service to the Rutgers community. All students in this picture have been accepted to professional schools. This event without a doubt highlighted the tremendous brilliance of ODASIS students.

RUTGERS

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