Match Day 2015

Gray skies didn’t take away from the bright futures of Baylor College of Medicine fourth-year medical students at Match Day 2015, held March 20. That’s when they learned where they will be conducting their residency training for the next three to seven years.

Match Day is the culmination of the National Residents Matching Program, which pairs fourth-year medical students with residency programs throughout the nation.

At Baylor, 178 students participated in the National Residents Matching Program, and two additional students participated in the Military Match. Of those students:

- 90 students are entering primary care residency programs in the fields of family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, medicine/pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology or emergency medicine. This represents 51 percent of the students participating in the match.
- 47 students matched with residency programs at Baylor College of Medicine.
- 77 students matched with residency programs in Texas.

Match Day at Baylor is a festive, family event, with balloons adorning the hallways and courtyard where the event is held. A class photo and a student-organized flash mob preceded the short program, which included remarks from Dr. Mary Brandt, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs; Dr. Alicia Monroe, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs; Dr. Clay Goodman, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education; and class president Diane Chen.

I always remind students that it’s not whether they get their first choice that matters most.

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that Baylor College of Medicine’s Emergency Smart Pod was one of 12 ideas selected for President Barack Obama’s challenge to find innovative tools to help fight the Ebola crisis. The Emergency Smart Pod is a portable 8-bed treatment unit that can be quickly built and rapidly deployed to areas affected by Ebola to assist healthcare providers.

The repurposed shipping containers also provide training and process pathways, controlled access-entry and patient and supply tracking systems.

“Currently, the most readily available option for an epidemic such as Ebola is a tent or immobile, stand-alone hospital,” said Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy, Director of Baylor Global Initiatives and the Baylor Global Innovation Center. “The Emergency Smart Pod is modular and rapidly deployable – we could have a pod set up within two weeks of an emergency situation in the United States or anywhere in the world.”

Last fall, President Obama called for solutions to battling the Ebola virus through the USAID. “Fighting Ebola: A Grand Challenge for Development” was designed to provide healthcare workers on the front lines with better tools to battle the epidemic.

Baylor’s proposal for the Emergency Smart Pod was among more than 1,500 grant applications from around the world. It was selected because its design directly addresses critical issues related to current Ebola treatment units, including cost, access standardization and deployability.

This inventive treatment unit represents another example of how Baylor impacts global health. Dr. Anandasabapathy and her team seek innovative, cost-effective and efficient solutions to international challenges. And those solutions also can be used for issues at home. For instance, these units could be modified for use after natural disasters such as a hurricane or tornado when a quick response is needed.

The Emergency Smart Pod will be developed in conjunction with a mobile training app and instruction manual to facilitate dissemination and training. To ensure clinical quality and efficiency, the pods will include a suite of “smart” apps such as multilingual training apps, bar-code patient/supply tracking system and tablet technologies for donning and doffing personal protective equipment.

Each unit also will have a HEPA filtration system and a contained waste and effluent management system for easy cleaning and disinfection. Other features air conditioning and the ability to connect multiple pods to increase bed volume.

These features allow the pods to be used in other emergency response situations including epidemics and natural disasters, where clinical facilities need to be constructed rapidly, providers need to be educated quickly and patients and supplies need to be tracked centrally. The pods can be modified to become surgery, labor and delivery and endoscopy units, among other uses.

The USAID funds the first pod. The goal is to build additional pods as they are needed for the Ebola crisis and to commercialize the product for other uses.

Biologics Modular of Brownsburg, Ind., will build the unit. Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, part of CHI St. Luke’s Health, provided expertise on infection control issues.

Baylor has filed for a patent for the Emergency Smart Pod and has formed Houston Global Health Innovations, LLC, a company that will manage the development and commercialization of the Emergency Smart Pod and other innovations developed through the Baylor Global Innovation Center.
CHRISTNER NAMED NEW DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Dr. Jennifer G. Christner has been named Dean of the School of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, and will begin those duties on June 1, 2015.

As dean, Christner will report to Provost Dr. Alicia Monroe and will oversee undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education and continuing medical education. She comes to Baylor from State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University, where she serves as associate dean for undergraduate medical education.

Dr. Christner’s passion for medical education and her innovative approach to enhancing the curriculum will align perfectly with our goal of creating outstanding new physicians. Together with Dr. Monroe and our talented associate deans and assistant deans, I am confident we have assembled a team at Baylor that will lead in medical education.

A pediatrician specializing in adolescent medicine, Christner held academic leadership positions at the University of Toledo and the University of Michigan before joining SUNY in 2012.

“With her creativity in approaching the learning process balanced with her understanding of the requirements of documenting the quality of our programs, Dr. Christner no doubt will put learners first, while ensuring we are training physicians in a transparent, accountable and inclusive manner.”

“I look forward to working with her,” said Monroe, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs.

Christner has been recognized for work in faculty development, as well as teaching and research. She has mentored students, residents and fellows in clinical practice and research.

“Baylor is a world renowned institution. The chance to be a part of that operation and learn from all the distinguished colleagues here is something that I couldn’t pass up. I love to be at a place where everyone is learning all the time and actively contributing to discussions. I feel incredibly lucky to get to be a part of it,” Christner said.

Speaking of her priorities in this new position, she said, “We are fortunate to train students and residents who are exceptionally bright and go on to do amazing things. I want to ensure that Baylor’s medical education program across the continuum is top notch. When other medical schools are thinking about how accreditation is done, or how cutting edge teaching techniques and assessments are done, I want them to first think, ‘What is Baylor doing? How can we be like them/learn from them?’ The caliber of our faculty and students deserve that!”

Christner received a bachelor of science degree in biology, with distinction, from Ohio State University and earned her medical degree from the University of Toledo College of Medicine, formerly known as the Medical College of Ohio. She completed residency training in pediatrics at the University of Michigan Medical Center and certification in research in primary care from the University of Toledo.
Grand Rounds: Remarkable Insights

The April Partnership Grand Rounds Tour at the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Center yielded remarkable insights into the developing and aging brain.

Led by Dr. Huda Zoghbi, Director of the NRI, Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics, Pediatrics and Neuroscience, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, the members-only group viewed the specialized laboratories and collaborative workspaces where scientists are making new discoveries about autism, Alzheimer’s disease and other neurological disorders daily.

Dr. Hugo Bellen, Professor and Director of the Program in Developmental Biology and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, showed the visitors his lab, where studies in fruit flies have revealed many important clues about the aging process and neurodegeneration.

NRI Co-director Dr. John Swann discussed his seizure research, which has led to a clinical trial to treat a devastating, and previously intractable, form of epilepsy.

Members also saw Dr. Mingshan Xue’s mouse models of autism spectrum disorders. The Partnership thanks Amy and Lloyd Kirchner for sponsoring the Grand Round Tours.

MEMBERSHIPS & MORE

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