LIVE AND LEARN

An Introduction to The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
WHAT BETTER WAY TO GET A SENSE of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University than by reading the stories of the people who live and learn here? In this viewbook, you’ll meet the medical students, who may enter via different routes of admission but form one, cohesive class. You’ll meet the faculty who empower students to tailor their medical education to their interests and inspiration. And you’ll meet the Ivy League university and the diverse, dynamic city of Providence where all of this happens.

As you read, imagine yourself here. Do you have a passion for independent research and strive to be published before you graduate? Do you want to care for the underserved, whether they are here in the US or on another continent? Do you want to train in a state-of-the-art facility that will prepare you to enter the most competitive residency programs in the country? Are you interested in earning a dual MD and master’s degree in population medicine?

If so, Alpert Medical School might be the place for you. Turn the page to find out.
EVERY THURSDAY, Jessica Borrell MD’16 travels to the working-class city of Fall River, Massachusetts, to see patients alongside her physician-mentor, Dr. Lucia Dias-Hoff. Jessica interviews patients one on one, learning about their illnesses, their families, their lives.

As she examines a woman who has strep throat, Jessica notes that she read about the illness in class that week. “It’s one thing to read about it, but it’s better to actually see a patient with a problem and know how to help them,” she says.

Like many Doctoring mentors, Dr. Dias-Hoff appreciates the “new energy” students infuse into her office. “They remind us why we went to medical school,” Dr. Dias-Hoff says. “This one afternoon with Jessica inspires me for the rest of the week.”

“I chose Alpert Medical School because I wanted to work with Spanish-speaking patients, and Providence offers the diversity I was looking for. This summer I’m going to Portugal so that I can learn more Portuguese.”

JESSICA BORRELL MD’16
JOHNSTOWN, PA

DOCTORING

Medicine is both an art and a science. Science you can learn from a textbook; art is best learned through observation and practice. In the Doctoring course, you’ll learn communication skills and professionalism from a community physician.

Your physician-mentor could be a pediatrician, ob/gyn, internist, or family doctor. Scan to learn more, or visit brown.edu/go/doctoring.
Though Doctoring continues through all four years, the step from Year 2 to 3 is a big one. Fellow students will help smooth the transition.

Clinical procedures like suturing, drawing blood, and performing lumbar punctures are second nature to most MDs—yet even the best doctor may find them challenging to teach.

“They’re so far removed from not knowing the absolute basics. It can be difficult to remember what it’s like to be in those shoes,” Matt Klein MD’14 says.

Before you make the leap from the classroom to hospital rotations, graduating students like Matt will lead a capstone course to introduce you to the various procedures and professional skills you’ll need to succeed.

Learners like the fresh perspective their peers provide, but their teachers benefit too. Matt, who will complete his emergency medicine residency at Northwestern, says the experience confirmed his desire to teach in the future.

“The emergency department is such a great environment to teach and to learn,” he says. “It’s a very team-oriented place.”

Interested in teaching? Our Scholarly Concentration in Medical Education might be for you. Alpert Medical School offers more than a dozen areas of scholarly concentration, as well as other opportunities for independent study and research.

Scan to learn about scholarly concentrations and student research, or visit brown.edu/go/enrich.

“The whole model of peer education is so valuable. Teaching fellow students gave me an appreciation for how much preparation it takes to be a great teacher.”

MATTHEW KLEIN MD’14
PARK RIDGE, IL
“The residents and attendings I encountered on these rotations were particularly interested in teaching medical students, which made learning a lot more fun.”

JENNA LESTER MD’14
SYRACUSE, NY

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

You know you want to be a doctor—but what kind? Clinical clerkships will help you decide. Beginning in Year 3, you’ll explore seven core disciplines as well as several electives, all with the goal of finalizing your career choice.

THE YEAR BEGINS with 42 weeks of core clerkships, in medicine, surgery, psychiatry/neurology, obstetrics/gynecology, family medicine, and pediatrics. For each six-to 12-week rotation, you’ll work full time in a local hospital or practice.

Refine your career interests with electives such as clinical clerkships in dozens of specialties, from anesthesiology to wilderness medicine; sub-internships; and opportunities to do research or international work. The 30 weeks of electives will help prepare you for the match process and residency.

Alpert Medical School values student flexibility and initiative, but you won’t go it alone. All along the way, advisers and mentors will help you design the curriculum and clinical experiences that are best for you.

As the only medical school in the state, Alpert Medical School has exclusive access to community practices and clinics as well as its seven teaching hospital partners, including a Level I trauma center, a children’s hospital, a veterans’ hospital, and a psychiatric facility.
GLOBAL HEALTH

If your medical tastes have an international flavor, Alpert Medical School has one question for you: Where in the world do you want to go?

BROWN COLLABORATES with universities and hospitals around the world to educate the next generation of global health experts. Whether you want to participate in an established program or design your own project, faculty and staff will help you realize your goals.

From HIV/AIDS work in Ukraine to pediatric rotations in Haiti to tuberculosis research in Ghana, Alpert medical students have found countless life-changing experiences abroad.

“You learn so much—you take a lot more than you give,” says Nick Nassikas MD'15, who worked in a hospital in Ghana last summer for his Global Health Scholarly Concentration research project.

But you don’t have to travel to get international experience: several large immigrant communities call Providence home. Marina MacNamara MD’13, who helped design the curriculum for refugee health electives, used her knowledge of French to help a local Congolese family. At Brown, the world is only as small as you make it.

“A full third of Alpert medical students undertake global health experiences. Scan to learn more about such opportunities, or visit brown.edu/go/global-health.”

“I was attracted to Brown by its global health work. Last summer I went to Accra, Ghana, to research extrapulmonary tuberculosis. My adviser and I are analyzing the data, and we’ll try to publish a paper in my fourth year.”

NICHOLAS NASSIKAS MD’15
MCLEAN, VA
“Alpert Medical School is a place where everyone can feel at home. Medical school is a transition for anyone, but Brown makes that transition easy. Here, you can be yourself and reach your potential as a physician.”

MATTHEW SCHWEDE MD’15
FERDNALE, WA

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

No matter what your passion, you will find faculty, staff, and students who share and support your interests.

MATT SCHWEDE MD’15

studied statistics at Harvard, but he didn’t have to leave math behind as a medical student. In fact, Alpert Medical School funded his research project during the summer after his first year.

Working with Eric Morrow, MD, PhD, Matt was lead author of a statistical analysis published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry. They found that two genes responsible for rare forms of autism play a wider role in the disease.

Nearly 90 percent of Alpert medical students take part in clinical or basic science research, compared with 68 percent of medical students nationwide. For students like Matt, it’s the first step in a career in medical research.

“I want to do research after I get my MD,” he says. “It’s not always easy to find time for it in medical school, but mentors are very willing to work around your schedule and make sure you’re getting the most out of your research experience.”

Matt says Dr. Morrow, right, offered invaluable advice about research and medicine.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Alpert Medical School has a long tradition of social responsibility and outreach. Students volunteer at medical clinics, offer translating help at local hospitals, and organize fundraising events.

THE BROWN STUDENT COMMUNITY CLINIC provides an invaluable opportunity for first- and second-year students to work with patients and learn clinical skills. Working out of the Rhode Island Free Clinic, which provides primary health care for the uninsured, volunteers interview, examine, diagnose, develop care plans, and establish long-term relationships with patients, under the supervision of physicians and older students.

“The clinic offers exactly what I thought med school would be,” says Joshua Rodriguez-Srednicki ’12 MD’16. “It’s the closest you can get to real doctoring before Years 3 and 4.”

And it offers more than hands-on experience. “The clinic is great training, but it’s also fun,” Jason Bowman MD’16 says. “It’s something that recharges me. I want to see patients.”

From nutrition to refugee health, asthma to human rights, service and advocacy groups run the gamut at Alpert Medical School.

Scan to learn more about student groups, or visit brown.edu/go/med-groups.
“Brown is flexible with all different life situations. The other students were supportive, and I could just go talk to my adviser if I felt I needed help. It almost feels like a family.”

ZACHARY HOFFMAN MD’14
(SHOWN WITH HIS WIFE, JOANNA WU, AND THEIR DAUGHTER, MADELYN)
BROWNSBURG, IN
Anesthesiology, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College

THE MATCH

At commencement you take the Physician’s Oath and become a doctor. But the first day of the rest of your life is two months earlier: Match Day.

FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND FACULTY gather round as you tear open your red envelope to reveal the next step in your professional life. It’s a day of celebration—and the culmination of four years of preparation to make your residency program match a success.

All along the way, mentors and advisers help you with everything from course selection and research projects to ranking your residency choices.

“This is a place where the faculty cares and invests their time into the students,” says David Kim MD’14, who will serve his emergency medicine residency at UCLA. “Most other schools do not have a chair who is so approachable, much less willing to do so much for medical students.”

“I am forever indebted to the emergency medicine faculty here. I could never have gotten work published without their mentorship and support.”

DAVID KIM MD’14
LOS ANGELES, CA
Emergency Medicine, Ronald Reagan University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
IN OUR NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING, every lecture is recorded and can be accessed online. You can plug in your iPad at any classroom seat—and even in the anatomy lab, to consult a journal or website during dissections.

In the Clinical Skills Suite you’ll practice the patient interview and physical exam with trained actors. Video cameras allow your teachers to watch your interaction, and let you review the recording later.

In this community of learners, your peers are essential for success. You’ll find plenty of space for study groups in the library and common areas. And when it’s time to clear your mind, head for the exercise room or rooftop terrace.

THE UN-LIBRARY
At the fully digital Champlin Memorial Library, you can access clinical resources, journals, and textbooks. The on-site health sciences librarian can help you begin research projects, learn citation management programs, and find sources.

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
With a paperless curriculum, you’ll access course materials via your iPad. You’ll belong to one of three academies (left), which provide amenities such as a kitchen and lockers as well as academic and personal support.
A LIFE OUTSIDE OF MEDICINE

You’re not expected to hang up your interests and hobbies when you slip on the white coat.

Indeed, the secret to a successful medical school experience is knowing how to balance studying with activities that help you decompress and exercise different parts of your brain—and body.

Plus, with one of the most beautiful and diverse areas of the country outside your door, you’ll want to explore all New England has to offer.

Alpert medical students run marathons, climb mountains, and cycle Rhode Island’s 100 miles of bike paths and nature trails. They sing in professional chorales and play in symphonies, they create hand-blown glass and grow community gardens.

There is, as they say, something for everyone at Alpert Medical School.

“I didn’t want to give up music in medical school. I’m a substitute violinist for the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and I’m in Healing through Harmony, a group of med students who play in hospitals for patients.”

Mary Kao MD’16
Fox Point, WI

Matthew Ehrlich MD’16
 Started glassblowing the year before he started medical school and was determined to keep it up. He makes time to go to the studio in Boston at least a few times a month.
“Think about what you want in a school. I feel more comfortable being out at Brown with respect to instructors, the student body, and day-to-day life.”

LIZ RUBIN MD’16

DIVERSITY

Individuals with diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds strengthen our community—and the medical field.

MULTICULTURALISM among students, faculty, and staff enriches educational understanding, creates more role models, and combats stereotyping. Students are urged to broaden awareness among peers and instructors by designing workshops, electives, and curricula. “There’s a huge amount of resources” for such programming, says Zachary Marcus ’10 MD’16, co-president of Gays, Lesbians, and Allies Advancing Medicine (GLAAM). “If you’re passionate you can make it happen.”

The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs offers academic, personal, professional, and social support to individuals who are underrepresented in medicine. Student groups, such as the Student National Medical Association and the Latino Medical Student Association, provide support and outreach.
LIFE AT BROWN

They call Rhode Island “the biggest little state in the Union,” and there’s no shortage of things to do.

THE RICHNESS OF BROWN UNIVERSITY’S campus life, library system, and athletic facilities are available to you as an Alpert medical student. Whether it’s attending a lecture or art exhibit, playing intramural sports, or taking a class at the new Nelson Fitness Center, the University offers innumerable ways to enrich your body and soul.

And then there’s the city of Providence, with its thriving art and culinary scenes—it was named overall best “foodie” city in America by Travel + Leisure in 2012. An eclectic mix of old and new, the “Creative Capital” has more buildings on the National Historic Register than any other place in the US, yet is a haven for modern art and theater.

Imagine yourself here.

Where to live? What to do? Scan to learn more, or visit brown.edu/go/pvd.
FACTS & FIGURES

ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL 2014

• 476 medical students
  - 105 undergraduate institutions (42 states and 7 countries represented)
  - 627 residents in 25 residency programs
  - 199 fellows in 57 fellowship programs

• 5 degree programs
  - MD
  - MD/MPH (Master of Public Health)
  - MD/MPP (Master of Public Policy)
  - MD/MPA (Master of Public Affairs)
  - MD-ScM (Master of Science in Population Medicine)

• 2,080 faculty members
  - campus based: 118
  - hospital based: 637
  - clinical: 1,325

• 7 teaching hospitals
  - Rhode Island Hospital (a Level 1 trauma center) and Hasbro Children’s Hospital
  - Emma P. Bradley Hospital (children’s psychiatric)
  - The Miriam Hospital
  - Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island
  - Butler Hospital (adult psychiatric)
  - Women & Infants Hospital
  - Providence VA Medical Center

TUITION & FEES

• tuition: $51,360
• fees, including health insurance: $4,061

FINANCIAL AID

• 70% of students receive institutional financial aid
• average annual need-based scholarship: $28,080

Median cumulative educational debt for graduates in the Class of 2013:
• At Alpert Medical School: $133,520
• All private medical school graduates: $190,000
• All medical school graduates: $175,000

Scan to learn more about financial aid at Alpert Medical School, or visit brown.edu/go/medfinancialaid.
Learn more about Brown’s new four-year, dual-degree program in primary care and population medicine.

brown.edu/population-medicine