HAPPY TO HELP

Alpert Medical School is in an exciting period of both innovation and expansion of the medical student body. Beginning with MD 2016, each entering class consists of 120 students from four routes of admission. But the defining characteristics of the Alpert Medical School community—collaborative, close-knit, and student-centered—will abide in the Medical School’s new home.

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

One of the most exciting aspects of the new Alpert Medical School building is that it provides physical space for the implementation of an academy system. These smaller learning communities provide students with a home base across all four years of their medical education and allows for much more interaction with faculty and other advisors. Each academy has two full-time staff to direct and organize activities within and among the communities. Three faculty members assigned to each academy provide non-specialty specific career advising and mentoring to students at the beginning of their medical training.

Students are assigned to one of three academies to ensure an even distribution of characteristics such as gender, route of admission, and ethnicity. Lectures and small group assignments will be based on the entire class, but anatomy will use the academy structure to create lab groupings in the three dissecting suites.

Alpert Medical School has chosen to implement an academy system
• to enhance connectivity and collaboration
• to foster and model professionalism
• to promote student wellness.

FIND YOUR CAREER IN MEDICINE

Career, personal, and academic advising all take place within your academy. Each academy sponsors one student-driven wellness activity in the year, such as a 5K run or yoga and meditation retreat. Career advising, which is built on the AAMC-based Careers in Medicine Program, begins in Year 1 with a series of specialty-specific panels designed to provide information early in your medical training. Career advising will continue through Year 2, with a combination of Doctoring Course activities and academy-specific initiatives. In Year 3, you will be assigned a faculty member in your specialty of interest; this faculty member will mentor you through the residency match process.

LIKE MINDS

While the academies promote somewhat structured community building, you may also find community among the wide variety of student interest groups or through involvement in national medical organizations such as AMSA, advocacy groups such as Physicians for Human Rights, and student-run initiatives like BRANCH (Brown Agriculture, Nutrition and Community Health), which promotes community gardening and healthy eating in local neighborhoods.

“The great thing about Alpert Medical School is that our student body is inspiring. I’m constantly surrounded by people who energize me to get involved in my community and put my knowledge and interests to work. Most people I know are involved in more than one student group at a time because with our diverse interests, it is impossible to pick just one.”

– JENNA LESTER MD’14