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?

If so, Alpert Medical School might be the place for you. Turn the page to find out.
“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.

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.”

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 second to third year is a big one. Fellow students will help smooth the transition.

The day before their clinical skills exam, second-year students cluster around their instructor, eager for advice on how to assess a chest x-ray. But don’t mistake Tom Anderson MD’13 for faculty: not long ago, he was a student just like them.

“The Clinical Skills Clerkship is about peer knowledge. We know what third year is like as medical students, because we’ve just done it,” says Tom, who led the course.

Before you make the leap from classroom learning onto the wards for the clinical clerkships, this three-week capstone experience will introduce you to various medical specialties, clinical skills, and other professional training you’ll need to succeed.

Much of the course is co-taught by fourth-year students who are pursuing a scholarly concentration in Medical Education. Tom, who will complete his radiology residency at Harvard, says, “I see myself in academia eventually, teaching residents.”

Scholarly concentrations let you turn personal interests into scholarship. In fact, 67 percent of Alpert students take on independent study, compared with 42 percent of students nationwide.

Scan to learn more about scholarly concentrations, or visit brown.edu/go/scp.
“All medical students should try teaching. So much of what we do as doctors is teaching. Learning to explain things clearly is key to good communication with our patients.”

THOMAS ANDERSON MD’13
WINCHESTER, MA
“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 50 weeks of core clerkships, in Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Community Health, 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.
“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
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.
“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
FERNDALE, WA

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.”
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 Student Community Clinic volunteers, from left, top row:

JUSTIN GLAVIS-BLOOM ’07 MD’16
SAN DIEGO, CA

DAVID DOURIEZ ’12 MD’16
MIAMI, FL

middle row:

JASON BOWMAN MD’16
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI

JOSHUA RODRIGUEZ-SREDNICKI
’12 MD’16
LEONIA, NJ

WILLIAM MANGHAM MD’16
MOBILE, AL

bottom row:

MINOO RAMANATHAN
’11 MD’16
MUSCAT, OMAN

ANNA COSTELLO ’12 MD’16
NORWALK, CT

NAN DU MD’16
BARRINGTON, RI
“I could feel how invested my mentor was in me and in what we’re doing as a couple. All of our mentors were invited to our wedding.”

**DEVIN SMITH MD’13**
**OAKLAND, CA**
Obstetrics/Gynecology, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

“Your mentor knows you through your clerkship, sees you grow, and helps you find the residency program that best fits you.”

**PAMELA ESCOBAR-SMITH ’09 MD’13**
**ARLETA, CA**
Obstetrics/Gynecology, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

“Orthopaedics is a competitive field so I got involved early, doing research and spending time in the clinic. It set me up much better for residency.”

**MICHELLE GOSSELIN MD’13**
**MILFORD, CT**
Orthopaedic Surgery, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine
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.

“The flexibility of the curriculum allowed me to do independent studies that gave me a leg up during the match,” says Ayushman Sharma MD’13, who will serve his otolaryngology residency at the Mayo Clinic. “The ENT department got me where I wanted to go.”

“Brown fosters independent learning, which was good for me with a family. The administration will support you wherever you want to take your medical education.”

Ayushman Sharma MD’13
(Shown with his wife, Sheetal)

Otolaryngology, Mayo Clinic, Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education
At Alpert Medical School, lectures and small-group learning deliver an integrated curriculum that connects an understanding of basic science to the experience of real patients.

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. Erika Sevetson, MS, the 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.

MATTHEW ERLICH 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.
“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
“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

The GLAAM leadership board, left to right:

ELIZABETH SCHINDLER MD’16 RUTLAND, VT

ELIZABETH RUBIN MD’16 AMHERST, MA

ZACHARY MARCUS ’10 MD’16 PROSPECT HEIGHTS, IL

HANNAH JANEWAY MD’15 WELLESLEY, MA
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 under-represented in medicine. Student groups, such as the Student National Medical Association and the Latino Medical Student Association, provide support and outreach.

Brown’s chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association sponsors health fairs and provides care for greater Providence’s Hispanic citizens.
**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.
Facts & Figures

Alpert Medical School 2013

- 457 medical students
- 4 degree programs
- 2,130 faculty members
- 7 teaching hospitals

- 102 undergraduate institutions (40 states and 6 countries represented)
- 560 residents in 16 residency programs
- 167 fellows in 52 fellowship programs

- MD
- MD/MPH (Master of Public Health)
- MD/MPP (Master of Public Policy)
- MD/MPA (Master of Public Affairs)

- campus based: 180
- hospital based: 652
- clinical: 1,298

- 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: $49,384
- fees, including health insurance: $3,800

FINANCIAL AID

- 70% of students receive institutional financial aid
- average annual need-based scholarship: $25,170

Median cumulative educational debt for graduates in the Class of 2012:
- At Alpert Medical School: $131,450
- All private medical school graduates: $190,000
- All medical school graduates: $170,000

Scan to learn more about financial aid at Alpert Medical School, or visit brown.edu/go/medfinancialaid.
“I want the doctor to understand the science but also to understand that each person is unique in their life and lifestyle.”

LARRY KIRKLAND

Artist Larry Kirkland was commissioned to create the public art in Alpert Medical School's atrium. The collage’s representation of two heartbeats and two marble chairs directly in front of it celebrates the doctor-patient relationship.