Annual Awards Ceremony
M.D. Class of 2014

Friday, the Twenty-third Day of May
Two Thousand and Fourteen

Sponsored by The Office of Medical Student Affairs
Dear students,

Congratulations on the remarkable accomplishment of graduating from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. To be amongst the next generation of physicians and scientists is truly an honor that you have worked very hard to achieve.

For the past four years you have learned through a combination of classroom hours, board exams and clerkships. When you leave Alpert Medical School you will embark on the next chapter of your medical career and put all that you have learned into practice. The next steps are important because you have the power to steer the course of healthcare. You will continue to learn and develop your skills as a physician. You will become privileged as you learn how to earn a patient’s trust. You will be challenged but always remember that Medicine is the best profession in the world.

Brown and Alpert Medical School take great pride in sending such an exemplary group of physicians into residency. Have courage to break new ground and follow your passion. I wish you the best of luck in the years to come.

Jack A. Elias, MD
Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences
Frank L. Day Professor of Biology
The Warren Alpert Medical School
of Brown University
John Evrard Prize
Mariam Amin
Kelsey Ripp

John J. Cunningham Memorial Family Medicine Award
Kate LaMancuso

The Henry Randall Prize
Shreyus Kulkarni

Jack and Edna Saphier Prize
Nina Ayala

Al Senft Prize
John Molina

Christopher Benedick, M.D. Child Psychiatry Award
Elizabeth Janopaul-Naylor

Herbert Rakatansky Prize
Elizabeth Janopaul-Naylor

Amos Throop Prize
Jordan Sack

Isaac Ray Award in Psychiatry
Colin Burke

Stanley Aronson Prize
Neishay Ayub

Brown Chapter of Sigma Xi Prize
Jason Chan

The Rhode Island Radiology Society Award
Katrina Chu

New England Pediatric Society Prize
Rachel Marano

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Prize
Matthew Klein

R.I. Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians Prize
David Kim

R.I. Chapter, American College of Physicians–American Society of Internal Medicine Scholarship
Rabih Geha

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation
Rabih Geha
Fred Schiffman, MD

David S. Greer Prize
Rahul Banerjee

Dean’s Prize
Rahul Banerjee
Sheela Krishnan

Alpha Omega Alpha Inductees

Alpha Omega Alpha is organized for educational purposes exclusively and not for profit, and its aims shall be the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment in medical science, practice, and related fields.

Nina Ayala Kate LaMancuso
Rahul Banerjee Jenna Lester
Jason Chan Madeline Mahowald
Katrina Chu Linda Ratanaprasatporn
Jessica Dai Lisa Ratanaprasatporn
Jude Fleming Zachary Schwager
Rabih Geha Josef Tofte
Sheela Krishnan Shreyus Kulkarni
Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

Honors senior medical students, residents, role-model physician teachers and other exemplars recognized for “demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service.” The GHHS is organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and its constituent institutions, and help to establish relationships with practicing physicians. Election of exemplars to the Gold Humanism Honor Society makes a significant statement to medical school faculty, students, and the public that an institution places high value on the interpersonal skills and attitudes that are essential for excellent patient care.

Nieshay Ayub
Rahul Banerjee
Colin Burke
Anna Hsu Chon
Libertad Flores
Jayne Gaubatz
Rabih Geha
Matthew Griffin
Jonathan Hernandez
Elizabeth Janopaul-Naylor
Heather Jones
Aaron Kofman
Sheela Krishnan

Alisha Lakhani
Kate LaMancuso
Jenna Lester
Jason Lopez
Jessica Mitchell
Melissa Paulen
Grace Price
Lisa Ratanaprasatpon
Jordan Sack
Zachary Schwager
Jinyu Zhang

Scholarly Concentration Inductees

The Scholarly Concentrations Program is an elective program through which Alpert Medical School students elect to pursue a course of study beyond that of the conventional medical education curriculum. Students who participate in a Scholarly Concentration undertake rigorous independent scholarship in a cross-disciplinary field of interest and produce an academic product, such as a manuscript of publication quality, a curriculum project, or an equivalent product appropriate to the field of study.

Nina Ayala
Rahul Banerjee
Colin Burke
Katrina Chu
Jude Fleming
Jayne Gaubatz
Matthew Griffin
Christina Guzman
Rashid Hussain
Neil Jackson
Lisa Jacobs
Jonathan Hernandez
Elizabeth Janopaul-Naylor
Heather Jones
Aaron Kofman
Sheela Krishnan

Alisha Lakhani
Kate LaMancuso
Eric Lee
Rachel Marano
Ryan Mason
Laura Mercurio
John Molina
Melissa Paulen
Ariana Raufi
Hildred Rochon
Jordan Sack
Hye Gi Shim
Josef Tofte
Jennifer Yong
The John Evrard Prize
Mariam Amin
Kelsey Ripp
M.D. Class of 2016

This prize is awarded to the top second-year student(s) in the pathophysiology course.

Dr. Evrard was recruited to Brown’s medical faculty in 1973 as a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and, simultaneously to the staff of Women & Infants Hospital, where he was appointed director of medical education. He was a renowned lecturer and writer and a caring counselor of students of medicine. Two years before his death, he published a book in collaboration with David Nichols, M.D., titled Ambulatory Gynecology. For six consecutive years, he was voted outstanding professor by seniors of the medical school and was given the William Williams Keen Award by Brown medical alumni in 1989.

The award for the top student in the Pathophysiology course in the second year is well deserved for this hard working, brilliant young physician to be.

Mariam Amin was a PLME, completing her undergraduate degree at Brown before starting at Warren Alpert. She chose to devote her undergraduate years to non-science related fields, to ensure that she was able to take part in all of her varied interests. She graduated with a degree in economics but decided to take two years off before starting medical school. In that time, she decided to pursue her interest in international health and global politics. She traveled to various countries, primarily working in medical anthropology in small South Asian mining communities. She started medical school knowing that her lack of a strong basic science background would necessitate that she work particularly hard at understanding all of the core concepts. She honored in all pre-clinical year courses that offered the distinction.

Aside from her work in the classroom, she spent her first year of medical school interning remotely for a Silicon Valley start-up to build business experience. She translated this experience into developing her own project this year, using technology to bridge the information gap between patient and physician.

Kelsey Ripp majored in human biology while an undergraduate in the PLME program at Brown. She graduated magna cum laude and was nominated to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. During her undergraduate years she developed an interest in global health, health disparities, and environmental science. She pursued research on a variety of topics from liver disease to conservation medicine, and won “Best Science and Society Senior Thesis.”

During Kelsey’s first two years at Alpert Medical School she was the leader of the Infectious Disease Interest Group, as well as founder of the Environmental Change and Health Interest Group and preclinical elective. She is also a Global Health Scholarly Concentrator. Last summer she spent two months in the Philippines working on a research project on schistosomiasis. She presented the findings from this research at several conferences this past year.

Kelsey’s other interests include travel and volunteering and has spent summers in both Kenya and Madagascar volunteering in health care and conservation capacities. In addition, Kelsey is an avid runner, having completed four marathons.
The John J. Cunningham Memorial Family Medicine Award
Kate LaMancuso
M.D. Class of 2014

This award is given to the graduating medical student whose academic and clinical excellence, care, compassion, and service to others best exemplifies the principles of family medicine.

The award honors Jack Cunningham, M.D., a Pawtucket family physician, for his care of patients, medical students, residents, and colleagues with concern and competence. Together with Dr. David Greer, Jack Cunningham founded the Department of Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in 1975.

Kate joined the Class of 2014 after graduating from Brown with an undergraduate degree in literary arts, living and teaching in Italy, completing postbaccalaureate premedical coursework, and working as a medical case manager for a refugee service agency in Buffalo, NY. Her experiences in medical casework offered Kate’s first and formative exposure to full-spectrum family medicine and to primary care’s essential and historically undervalued role in coordinating care for all patients, especially our most vulnerable. Back at Brown for medical school, Kate sought opportunities and mentorship to begin developing the practical skills of medical advocacy – research, teaching, and most importantly, patient-centered care. Through the Women’s Reproductive Health Scholarly Concentration, Kate returned to Buffalo, NY to undertake a qualitative study of Karen refugee women’s perinatal experiences, a project she then presented at the North American Refugee Health Conference. She was fortunate to serve as a preclinical content tutor, a Doctoring Teaching Fellow, and a co-leader of the Refugee Health Preclinical Elective, the latter of which she presented at the AAFP Student and Resident Conference. As a student clinician, Kate most enjoyed developing relationships with primary care patients at the Family Care Center in Pawtucket, RI, co-organizing Physical Diagnosis Rounds at the Miriam Hospital, and rounding on the Amani Ward at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya as part of Brown’s AMPATH exchange.

She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and Alpha Omega Alpha.

Kate is staying in Rhode Island to train in Brown’s family medicine residency program at Memorial Hospital.

The Henry Randall Prize
Shreyus Kulkarni
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to the graduating medical student planning a career in surgery or a surgical subspecialty based upon superior performance in the surgery clerkship.

Dr. Randall was a prominent surgeon and researcher who served as surgeon-in-chief of Rhode Island Hospital and chair of the Department of Surgery at Brown from 1970 to 1979. Dr. Randall, known as the “Father of Enteral Nutrition,” devoted himself to educating other physicians on this innovative form of surgical nutrition and the importance of a multidisciplinary team approach to nutrition care. His dedication to the care of his patients and his surgical teachings have influenced multiple generations of clinicians, researchers, and surgeons.

Shreyus grew up in Ellicott City, MD and graduated from Centennial High School in 2006. He attended the University of Maryland College Park as a Banneker/Key Scholar and graduated magna cum laude in 2010 with a degree in physiology and neurobiology and a minor in art history. He earned a University Honors Citation and was inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. His undergraduate activities included community volunteering, lab research at the NIH, internships at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and a part-time campus job in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Shreyus matriculated into Alpert Medical School in 2010 and pursued a wide variety of interests. He served as a first and second-year tutor, a course leader for the “Healthcare in America” pre-clinical elective, and teaching assistant in the Clinical Skills Clerkship. He was also a student representative in the Medical Student Senate and helped organize a National Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Summit at the medical school. His scholarly activities included history of medicine research on Sir John Pringle M.D. (1707-82) in London, UK, a burn resuscitation study which he presented at the American Burn Association Annual Meeting, and a clinical project on the outcomes of palliative surgery for advanced cancer. He was also very involved in the first AMS “Low Yield” Annual Variety Show and the “Date a Doctor” Charity Auction. Shreyus was also inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society this year.

Shreyus will be starting his general surgical residency training at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He is very grateful for all the opportunities he has been given at AMS as well as for the great support he has received from his mentors, family, and friends. He is honored to receive the Dr. Henry T. Randall Prize and hopes to stand Dr. Randall in good stead by furthering the field of surgery and improving patient care.
Jack and Edna Saphier Prize
Nina Ayala
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded annually to the graduating medical student who has made the most outstanding original contribution to the field of obstetrics and/or gynecology. The contribution may be the product of basic or clinical research and in the form of a manuscript that contributes new knowledge or insight to the discipline.

The prize was established by Dr. and Mrs. Henry Saphier and his brother, Dr. Albert Saphier, in honor of their parents, Jack and Edna. Both Dr. Saphiers are obstetrician/gynecologists, and Henry and his wife Marieanna are parents of four Brown graduates, including one medical school graduate, Carl Saphier ’88 MD’92.

Nina initially came to Brown as a PLME student and majored neuroscience. While in college, her passion for teaching and mentoring was born when she worked as a women’s peer counselor and helped write curriculum for a budding SAT/college preparatory company in Providence. She was also a dedicated and active member of the Brown Women’s Rugby Team, helping them to qualify for the Division 1 Final Four competition all 4 years she played for them. While in college, she spent her summers working in an urban emergency room in Connecticut and obtained valuable experience functioning in a fun but high-stress environment.

Nina went directly from college into medical school and distinguished herself during both the pre-clinical and clinical years by obtaining honors in nearly every course. She entered the Scholarly Concentration in Medical Education during her first year and has been active throughout medical school contributing to both pre-clinical and clinical curriculum innovation. She was co-coordinator of the Peer Tutoring Program during her second year, and has been a peer tutor throughout her time at the medical school. This during her final year as a culmination to her MedEd studies, she has served as the Coordinator of the Doctoring Senior Substitutes. She has held numerous leadership positions including coordinating the Emergency Medicine Interest Group, serving on the curriculum sub-committee for years 3 & 4, serving as a Alpert Medical School Student Ambassador and running the medical student portion of TALC, a support group for teens with chronic illness out of Hasbro Children’s Hospital. She won the Bray Fellowship for Humanism in Medicine for her work with the TALC group during her second year.

Nina has also actively participated in multiple research arenas, garnering publications in journals across the fields of Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medical Education. She also brought with her to medical school a passion for narrative writing, and had her first reflective piece published in Academic Emergency Medicine during her third year. She had the honor of being inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society this Spring. Nina has done an exceptional job of balancing and combining so many of her interests throughout medical school and is excited to see what path academic medicine will present her with next.

She will begin her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency this summer at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL.
This prize is awarded to the medical student who has shown the greatest promise as a potential leader in the field of international health.

Dr. Senft was a leader in organizing the basic sciences for the M.D. degree, years before Brown Medical School was fully organized or operational. A generation of Brown medical students learned parasitology in the classes supervised by Dr. Senft.

John Carlos matriculated to Brown University in the fall of 2004 as part of the Program in Liberal Medical Education. As an undergraduate, John majored in Latin American studies with a focus on international health and poverty. During his senior year, John co-founded the Sustainable Community Development Project with fellow PLME Edward Cheung (’08/’12). The project expanded John’s previous work with the A Mother’s Wish Foundation and its clinic Pequeños Pasitos, a maternal/infant care center servicing five rural communities north of Santiago, Dominican Republic. For his work, John was awarded the Howard R. Swearer International Service Fellowship, the Peterson Educational Enhancement Fund and the Mark V. Anderson Character-In-Action Award. John was also selected for the Frederick W. Barnes prize, given to the graduating PLME senior who best utilized the program to pursue interests in the humanities and social sciences.

After graduating from Brown in 2008, John spent a year continuing his efforts in the Dominican Republic, as well as co-founding the Runa Foundation in Ecuador. With support from the medical school’s Summer Research Assistantship Award and the Global Health Scholarly Concentration, the Runa Foundation examined how indigenous communities could leverage the sale of a local tea to create sustainable sources of income and improve their livelihoods.

After completing his third year of medical school, John pursued a Master’s in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. By combining course work at the School of Education with classes at the Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard School of Public Health, John studied the relationship of education and health to the transmission of poverty and barriers for social mobility. Upon returning to Brown, John was selected as a fellow for the Swearer Center’s inaugural TRI-Lab on Healthy Early Childhood Development, and his current research focuses on how poverty and scarcity of resources effects development in young children by altering parental decision-making.

John will begin his Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

This prize is awarded to the senior medical student who has achieved honors or near honors in her psychiatry clerkship; shown significant interest in child psychiatry during her child psychiatry elective and a knowledge in child psychiatry considered to be greater than those of her colleagues.

Christopher Paul Benedick completed his general psychiatry residency and his child psychiatry fellowship at Brown. Upon graduation, he became a clinical assistant professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and the chief of the Children’s Inpatient Unit at Bradley Hospital. Chris was a beloved son, wonderful husband, standout father, exuberant teacher, mentor, and cherished friend. He was an outstanding role model for medical students and mentored many who went on to become child psychiatrists. His untimely death in April 2004 left a void for many; but for those who were fortunate enough to know him, his incredible life lives on.

Elizabeth (Za) was born and raised just outside of DC in Arlington, Virginia. In high school she became interested in mental health advocacy volunteering at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Za also had the opportunity during high school to work directly with patients with severe mental disorders by spending a summer volunteering at a day center. She applied and was accepted to the Brown PLME program with the dream of becoming a psychiatrist.

Za continued to work with NAMI during her undergraduate years at Brown, spending a summer in their New York City office helping to write a paper on New York States parity laws and organizing consumers to speak about their illness to peers around the city. In 2008 she took a semester off to work in an HIV outreach clinic in Ghana where she worked with local health providers to make home visits to HIV/AIDS patients. Za majored in human biology and wrote her senior honors thesis on the social ramifications of Merck’s marketing campaign for Gardasil.

In medical school Za has continued her advocacy work by joining the Student Health Council. She has organized several talks to raise awareness on medical student mental wellness, including a now annual depression talk in which students candidly talk about their own experiences with stress, depression and burnout. While a 3rd year she started a longitudinal experience with Dr. Lowenhaupt at Rhode Island’s juvenile detention center which has inspired a passion for working for this underserved population. Together they wrote a review article about substance abuse treatment in the juvenile justice system. Za was also inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society this year.

In June she will move to Boston to start her internship at Harvard’s Psychiatry Residency at Cambridge Health Alliance.
The Herbert Rakatansky Prize
Elizabeth Janopaul-Naylor
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to a graduating medical student who has contributed to the health and well-being of her or his fellow students and/or in other ways exemplified commitment and leadership in the areas of medical professionalism, medical ethics and humanitarian service.

Dr. Herbert Rakatansky, ’56, founded the Physician Health Program of the Rhode Island Medical Society in 1979 and has chaired the Program ever since. The program has helped hundreds of Rhode Island physicians, dentists, podiatrists and Physician Assistants consistently maintain the highest standards of professional performance. Dr. Rakatansky is also faculty advisor to the Medical Student Health Council. Dr. Rakatansky was president of the Rhode Island Medical Society in 1985-86. He was a member of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs of the American Medical Association for seven years, from 1994 to 2001 and served as vice chair and chair of the Council for four years. He has served on the clinical faculty of Brown since 1967 and became clinical emeritus professor of medicine in 2008. The prize was established by the Rhode Island Medical Society in 2012 in celebration of its bicentennial.

The Amos Throop Prize
Jordan Sack
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to a graduating medical student who has demonstrated engagement in the issues and processes of public policy relating to health and health care, and in the role of medical societies as advocates for patients and for enlightened public policy.

Dr. Amos Throop (1736-1814) was a founder and the first president of the Rhode Island Medical Society (1812-1814). He served in the Revolutionary War as both a soldier and a doctor. A Federalist, Dr. Throop was elected by the people of Providence to four terms in the Rhode Island General Assembly. The founding of the Rhode Island Medical Society in 1812 and the founding of Brown University’s first medical school in 1811 were contemporaneous events inspired by similar purposes and involving some of the same individuals. Medical societies promote education, medical ethics and professionalism; they advocate in the public arena for the needs, values and interests of patients and the medical profession. The prize was established by the Rhode Island Medical Society in 2012 in celebration of its bicentennial.

Jordan is excited to be starting his residency in Internal Medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital in June.

He received his undergraduate education from Brown University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a focus on Immunology as well as a second concentration in History with a focus on Empires. He graduated magna cum laude, Sigma Xi, and Phi Beta Kappa. He received several awards including the Class of 2010 Senior Prize in Biology and the Frederick Barnes Prize.

During his medical school years, Jordan received honors in almost all his pre-clinical and clinical courses. He was selected as a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society which emphasizes providing patients with compassionate care. He has been actively involved in teaching and has been doing his Scholarly Concentration in Medical Education. He created several anatomy videos for the first year medical students. These videos have been well received by students and faculty and have been incorporated into the anatomy curriculum. A journal publication on his videos is currently under review. He has also spent time tutoring students and has been a student instructor for the Clinical Skills Clerkship.

Additionally, Jordan worked at the Liver Research Center, specifically looking at the role of p53 in alcoholic liver disease. He presented his contributions at several poster sessions including the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease in Boston and he was the 2011 Finalist for the New Investigator...
Award at Rhode Island Hospital’s 19th Annual Research Celebration. Jordan also began clinical research this past year, looking at the use of antibiotics for children with community acquired pneumonia and enrolling children under the age of 2 years in a randomized control trial on the use of pulse oximetry in bronchiolitis.

Jordan is a life-long Rhode Islander and is passionate about advocacy for the deaf and hard of hearing communities. Since high school, he has been involved in several local organizations including the Rhode Island Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association and the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He has been a Commissioner since 2007 and currently serves as Chairperson. He also co-ran the Bionic Human Elective and the Disability Awareness Group at the medical school.

Jordan enjoys spending time with family and friends. His interests include art, history, kayaking, and traveling.

The Isaac Ray Award in Psychiatry
Colin Burke
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to the graduating medical student who has received honors or near honors in the psychiatry core clerkship and has shown distinguished activity in psychiatry outside of the core clerkship.

Isaac Ray was one of the most prominent and scholarly American psychiatrists of the 19th century. He started a practice of general medicine in rural Maine but early in his career developed a fascination with human behavior, which led him to read extensively and travel to Europe to study with the most prominent psychiatric physicians of the day. He was the founding superintendent of Butler Hospital in Providence and held that position for more than 30 years. His ideas on “mental hygiene” and public mental health were far ahead of their time. Throughout his life Dr. Ray combined leadership, scientific scholarship, and enlightened medical care with a strong sense of social responsibility. Beyond his seminal contributions, Isaac Ray is an outstanding role model of a caring physician with an inquiring mind, passionately devoted to the field of psychiatry.

Colin’s passion for advocacy for underserved populations began in high school, when he was a student leader on weekend service retreats for fellow students to homeless shelters in the Boston area. His interest in channeling this passion through a career in medicine was solidified as an undergraduate at Stanford University, where he completed an honors thesis on the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection among recently released jail inmates. He graduated with a BA with Honors in Public Policy, and spent the following three years developing his passions for advocacy and the sciences as a John Gardner Public Service Fellows with the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases in Washington, DC, a post-baccalaureate pre-medical student at the Harvard Extension School, and an Americorps Case Manager with the HIV and Suboxone teams at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

In his first two years at Brown, Colin served as co-leader for Brown’s chapter of Physicians for Human Rights and Finance Chair for the Brown Student Community Clinic. He also became involved with research with Dr. Thomas O’Toole at the Providence VA’s Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team clinic, studying the effects of the recent economic recession on the make-up and needs of the homeless veteran population. Though completely unexpected, he fell in love with the field of psychiatry during his third-year clinical rotation, and has merged this newfound passion with his interests in homeless healthcare and healthcare advocacy through research on mental health and primary care treatment integration and clinical electives related to community psychiatry. He was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society this year.

He cannot wait to begin psychiatry residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in June.
The Stanley Aronson Prize
Neishay Ayub
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to a graduating medical student for excellence in the neurosciences.

Dr. Aronson was appointed professor of medical science at Brown in 1970. In 1972 he became the founding dean of medicine, a position he held until 1981. Since his retirement as dean, Professor Aronson has devoted much of his time to Brown Medical School and undergraduate teaching, and to clinical neuroepidemiology as president of Hospice Care of Rhode Island. He is editor emeritus of Medicine and Health Rhode Island.

Neishay was born in Pakistan, and raised in Massachusetts. She has spent much of her life traveling between these two countries and volunteering with women and children. At Wellesley College, she continued her commitment to service by working extensively with residential life and health organizations. Neishay also developed her love of sciences. She researched in a neurogenesis lab with crustacean models, and her work culminated into a senior thesis, a peer-reviewed journal article and teaching tools for Neuro 100 lab courses. She graduated with Honors in Neuroscience, and was inducted to Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and magna cum laude.

In medical school, her most rewarding experiences has been collaborating with college students and triple board residents to mentor teens with chronic illnesses at TALC, a nonprofit based out of Hasbro Children’s Hospital. These teens and their parents have taught her much about patient centered medicine and building patient rapport. Neishay was inducted into Gold Humanism Honor Society this year. She hopes to continue her commitment to neuroscience and to service as she begins a career in Neurology.

Neishay will complete her preliminary year at Brown, and will continue her training at Beth Israel Neurology residency.

The Brown Chapter of Sigma Xi Prize
Jason Chan
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to an Alpert Medical School student by the Brown Chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific honor society, for outstanding research.

Jason came to Brown as a PLME where he majored in Biophysics and graduated magna cum laude. As an undergraduate, he worked in the lab of Professor Derek Stein on DNA analysis with solid-state nanopores and in the lab of Professor Elena Oancea on human melanocyte UV signal transduction. He was awarded several research fellowships as well as the Elizabeth Leduc Prize in Cell Biology.

In medical school, Jason was awarded the AOA Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship. He was a NSF-EPSCoR/Slater Technology Fund Entrepreneurial Fellow. He was one of two recipients of the UCSF Medical Student Fellowship in Radiation Oncology. His work with Dr. Timothy Kinsella resulted in a publication in the journal Frontiers in Radiation Oncology. His work with Dr. Jaroslaw Hepel on brain metastases will be featured as a plenary oral presentation at the upcoming Leksell Gamma Knife Society Meeting. Jason achieved honors in the majority of his coursework in medical school and was elected to AOA.

Jason will begin his Radiation Oncology residency at University of California, San Francisco.
The Rhode Island Radiology Society Award
Katrina Chu
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to a graduating medical student who has completed an elective clerkship in radiology, has shown a significant interest in the field and a knowledge of radiology considered to be greater than those of her colleagues.

Katrina has been engaged in community work from a young age, and garnered recognition of her public service in high school with the President George W. Bush Volunteer Service Award and the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. She graduated as valedictorian of her class and entered the PLME after earning several merit scholarships, including the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship, AXA Achievement Award, and Junior League Scholarship.

At Brown, Katrina has been very involved in cancer biology and biochemistry research and collaborated on projects both at Brown and at Stanford. She pursued diverse and enriching leadership experiences as an undergraduate, working as a product development intern at Johnson & Johnson, tutoring students as a Rose Writing Fellow, earning a small grant to study complementary medicine in Taiwan, and heading an alumna mentorship program as co-chair of Women in the World. She graduated with Honors in Biology, magna cum laude, and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi Societies.

During medical school, Katrina won an American Cancer Society Fellowship and Grant for her research on DNA replication. She continues to be an academic leader, receiving honors in almost all preclinical courses and clinical clerkships, and with publications in several prestigious journals, including the International Journal of Gynecological Cancer and Nature Reviews Cancer.

Katrina will begin her Radiology residency training at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

The New England Pediatric Society Prize
Rachel Marano
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to the graduating medical student who, in the opinion of peers and faculty, best exemplifies those qualities one looks for in a pediatrician.

Rachel received her bachelor’s degree from New York University’s Presidential Honors Scholars Program, where she majored in mathematics and graduated cum laude. She wrote her college senior thesis on the mathematical modeling of the effects of smoking on a fetus during pregnancy, focusing on the postnatal outcomes. She tutored undergraduate students in math and science, and discovered her love for teaching. A native of Long Island, New York, she enjoys soccer, travel, music, socializing, and spending time with family and friends.

Rachel entered medical school with broad interests. She thoroughly loved all of her preclinical and clinical rotations and excelled across the board. She spent much of her extracurricular time in medical school as a participant and subsequently a leader of the preclinical elective, Medical Student Outreach to Mothers-to-be (MOMs). It is a student-run maternal-child health advocacy program that educates students about perinatal health of mothers and their newborns and introduces patient advocacy to the students. She performed research in a pediatrics genetics clinic. As part of the Medical Technology and Innovation scholarly concentration, she created a risk assessment model to determine the likelihood of children with unexplained developmental delay having genetic disorders, and published her findings. She soon realized that her interests have pointed to pediatrics all along, and it was during her pediatrics rotations that she found her home. Her deepest interests are in preventative medicine, reproductive health, and caring for infants and children.

Rachel is thrilled to begin her Pediatrics residency at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles.
The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Prize
Matthew Klein
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to the graduating medical student who has demonstrated excellence in the specialty of emergency medicine.

Matt’s interest in emergency medicine began with an EMT course flyer spotted during the first week of his freshman year at Yale, and has been growing ever since. While completing a five-year, joint BA/MPH program, Matt served as a volunteer EMT and worked nights at an emergency department technician at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Upon arriving at Brown, he joined, and later led, the emergency medicine interest group. Working under the skillful mentorship of Drs. Esther Choo and Megan Ranney, Matt combined his interests in emergency medicine and public health to research risky behaviors in adolescents. His poster on psychosocial correlates of bullying won first place at the Alpert Medical School summer research showcase, and he presented his investigation of early alcohol use in teens at the American Public Health Association’s 2012 Annual Meeting. He has co-authored papers in Academic Emergency Medicine and Clinical Pathways in Cardiology. Outside of the classroom, Matt has volunteered with the Rhode Island Free Clinic, the Brown Student Community Clinic, and served as a teaching fellow for the Doctoring Course and as a member of the Alpert Medical Admissions Committee.

Originally from Chicago, Matt competed in track and cross country in high school, and has gone on to complete three marathons while in medical school, including the 2012 Boston Marathon.

Matt will begin his emergency medicine residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Rhode Island Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians Prize
David Kim
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to the graduating medical student who has demonstrated service to the emergency medicine community in Rhode Island. The student will have shown a significant interest in emergency and pre-hospital care during undergraduate and/or medical school training.

David received his undergraduate degree in Economics and Political Science from Northwestern University in 2006, where he danced for 30 hours straight to raise money for pediatric AIDS prevention as part of the Dance Marathon and led the student programming board – bringing artists such as Kanye West and Ben Folds to campus. After graduation, David headed to East Asia, spending a year exploring Korea, Japan, and Malaysia with the assistance of a U.S. Fulbright Grant. When he returned, he accepted a junior consultant position with the firm Booz & Company, working on corporate strategy projects for health payers, hospital systems, and pharmaceutical companies.

After two years in corporate life, he realized he wanted to be on the other side of health care, prompting him to finish his pre-medical requirements at Bryn Mawr. In Philadelphia, he became involved with JeffHOPE, the student free clinic at Jefferson Medical College, volunteering regularly at the Ridge Center on Monday nights and prompting his interest in underserved care. He has continued his interest here at Brown by becoming a regular volunteer at the Rhode Island Free Clinic, serving as a student volunteer coordinator and a member of the executive board for the Brown Student Community Clinic project. His interest in providing quality care to underserved populations prompted his choice to pursue emergency medicine as a specialty and motivated his interest in public health research. His project on exploring gender differences in patient preferences for technology based interventions was presented as a poster at the national meeting of the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine and is in final revisions for publication for the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine.

David will begin his Emergency Medicine residency at the University of California – Los Angeles in July.
The Rhode Island Chapter, American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine Scholarship Award
Rabih Geha
M.D. Class of 2014

This award is given by the Department of Medicine to a graduating medical student planning a career in internal medicine based upon superior performance in the clerkship in medicine and commitment to seek postgraduate training in internal medicine.

Originally from Lebanon, Rabih moved to the United States for college after spending the majority of his childhood in Pakistan. At Boston College, Rabih majored in biochemistry and math, graduating magna cum laude and as a Dean’s Scholar. During this time he delved into nanotechnology, studying DNA modification and carbon nanotubes, and was awarded the Chemistry Achievement Award for his research. As a math major, Rabih also researched the geometric construction of complex solids and was inducted into the Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics honors society. A lifelong soccer player, Rabih was an avid member of the Boston College Club team all four years at B.C.

At Alpert Medical School, Rabih continued to pursue his interest in research and was awarded an NIH translational research grant to study the role of microglial cells in chronic pain. Rabih also shares his parents’ passion for teaching and continued to tutor junior medical students beginning early in his second year. During his clinical years, he was able to pursue his interest in Global Health in the form of clinical rotations in his native Lebanon and Pakistan. Despite the hectic medical school schedule, Rabih was able to join a semi-professional soccer team in his pre-clinical years and continues to play soccer in competitive leagues across Rhode Island. He had the honor of being inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society this Spring.

Rabih will begin his Internal Medicine Residency at the University of California in San Francisco in June 2014.

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation
Fred Schiffman, M.D.
Rabih Geha
M.D. Class of 2014

This award recognizes and honors one outstanding role-model faculty member and one humanistic medical student who have embraced the importance of compassion and sensitivity in the delivery of care to patients and their families. The recipients will be awarded membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Fred J. Schiffman, M.D. is a hematologist/oncologist at Brown and Lifespan. Dr. Schiffman is the Sigal Family Professor of Humanistic Medicine at Brown, Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine of the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University, and Associate Director of the Categorical Residency Program at Brown. He is the Associate Physician in Chief at The Miriam Hospital. His areas of expertise include malignant and non-malignant hematological problems and disorders of the spleen.

Dr. Schiffman is a graduate of NYU Medical School. He completed his internship, residency and chief residency at Yale New Haven Hospital. He spent two years at the National Cancer Institute as a research fellow. Before coming to Brown, he was on the hematology faculty at Yale and was the Director of the Primary Care Center at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Dr. Schiffman has published in a broad range of hematologic areas and also on a variety of subjects regarding the education of students and house staff. He is the editor of a textbook on Hematologic Pathophysiology and several book chapters including one on diseases of the spleen. He is the new editor of the Transactions of The American Clinical and Climatological Association, and a guest editor of the April 2012 issue of Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America on “Consultative Hematology.”

The recently awarded Sigal Family Professorship in Humanistic Medicine has allowed him to lead and participate in several programs. He will serve as the head of the Humanities Section in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, which will encompass patient care, education and research activities. He currently leads Schwartz Rounds Conferences at The Miriam Hospital and for the past three years has been the faculty advisor to the Gold Humanism Honor Society at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine. He has organized several unique programs in the arts dealing with the interface between humanities and medicine, such as the Cops and Docs Program at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design.
Dr. Schiffman has received numerous teaching awards and has been the speaker at Brown’s Medical School Commencement exercises, and White Coat Ceremony. Among his honors have been the Charles C. J. Carpenter M.D. Outstanding Physician of the Year Award, the Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the specialty of Internal Medicine, and the Human Dignity Award given by Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island.

He has been a Visiting Professor/Lecturer at many institutions. Most recently being selected as the Bondy Lecturer and Visiting Professor at Yale Medical School, and the M. Eugene Lahey Memorial Lecturer and Visiting Professor at University of Utah School of Medicine.

The David S. Greer Prize
Rahul Banerjee
M.D. Class of 2014

This prize is awarded to the graduating medical student who best exemplifies the view of medicine as a socially responsible human service profession and who exhibits those personal qualities of kindness, compassion, collegiality, and cooperativeness that so characterize David Greer.

Dr. Greer joined the Brown faculty in 1974 as associate dean of medicine and professor of community health. He was appointed dean of medicine in 1981 and held the position until 1992. Dr. Greer was the founding father of the Program in Liberal Medical Education and it was through his vision and leadership that the PLME came to fruition. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Greer has been a vigorous advocate of primary care education and research, both in internal medicine and as the founding chief of the family medicine program at Brown. He was a founding director of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

Rahul first came to Brown in 2006 as a PLME after scoring a perfect 2400 on the SATs and serving as his high school’s valedictorian. As an undergraduate student at Brown, Rahul split his time between co-directing a fusion dance team, managing a 40-employee Computer Help Desk, and working his way toward a magna cum laude degree in biology with induction into both the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi Honor Societies.

After starting at the Warren Alpert Medical School in 2010, Rahul found his niche in medical informatics, programming a website to help breast cancer patients navigate the confusing world of potential fertility treatments and also teaching a workshop for attending physicians about smartphone apps in clinical preceptorship. Rahul’s other enduring interest has been in teaching, where he has spent three years as a medical sciences tutor and Doctoring teaching assistant. Additionally, he was picked by the Medical School to lead and supervise a group of 16 students in executing the introductory Clinical Skills Clerkship for rising third-year medical students. Outside Rhode Island, Rahul serves on the American College of Physicians’ national Council of Student Members, a position that has allowed him to work to inspire medical students about internal medicine and also to lobby on Capitol Hill for adequate graduate medical education funding.

On a clinical level, Rahul has earned honors in every core clerkship as well as all eleven clinical electives that he has taken to date, earning him a spot in both the Alpha Omega Alpha and the Gold Humanism Honor Societies. He earnestly believes that humanism in medicine captures the essence of his future
career; of the 19 peer-reviewed publications, scholarly abstracts, and invited presentations that Rahul has authored, he holds his personal reflection about a cancer patient in denial (published in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*) to be his most meaningful work.

Rahul will begin his Internal Medicine residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

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**Deans Prize**

Rahul Banerjee  
Sheela Krishnan  
*M.D. Class of 2014*

This prize is awarded to the outstanding male and female student in the graduating class who best exemplifies those attributes desirable in a physician, namely, high academic accomplishments, commitment, and honesty.

Sheela hails from Suffern, NY, a suburb of New York City. In high school, Sheela conducted an independent research project in food microbiology at Cornell University for which she was named a 2006 Intel Science Talent Search Finalist and a Davidson Scholar. Sheela enrolled in the PLME at Brown in 2006, majoring in human biology with a track in Human Health and Disease. At Brown, she loved dancing with Brown’s South Asian fusion dance team, volunteered in Rhode Island public high schools as a debate coach, and served as a member of the College Curriculum Council. She graduated *magna cum laude* in 2010, and was also nominated to the Sigma Xi Scientific Honor Society for her senior thesis research in immunology.

In medical school, Sheela has remained involved in research ranging from outcomes analysis comparing ophthalmologic procedures to retrospective researching assessing the effect of treatment of Hepatitis C on the development of Type 2 Diabetes. She has also enjoyed teaching and working on curriculum projects through her scholarly concentration in Medical Education, volunteering with the Brown Student Community Clinic and the Healthcare for the Underserved pre-clinical elective, and traveling abroad for her fourth-year electives. She was inducted into AOA and GHHS this year. Sheela loves hanging out with her family and friends, running, cooking vegetarian food, doing yoga, meditating, and snowboarding.

She is very excited about starting residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, but is sad to say goodbye to the friendly old (new?) halls of Alpert Med.