MedCat Jr.

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The Medical Sciences Program commenced the 2015-2016 academic year by hosting the President of the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Santa Ono, to speak about his journey to a career in academic medicine and higher education administration. President Ono is well known for his biomedical research at UCCOM and CCHMC, as well as, his commitment to UC students. He spoke about the importance of utilizing the resources of the Medical Sciences Program and encouraged students to challenge the boundaries of their comfort zone. President Ono advised students to be mindful of the unexpected opportunities and experiences that will shape our future careers in medicine. Following his talk, students had the opportunity to speak with him individually while enjoying Graeter’s ice cream!

Ice Cream Social with President Ono

Dr. Margaret Hostetter

At the Wednesday evening seminar on September 23, the Medical Sciences’ students were fortunate to have the opportunity to speak to Dr. Margaret Hostetter, the Chief Medical Officer of CCHMC, the Director of CCHMC Research Foundation, and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UCCOM. Dr. Hostetter delivered an engaging presentation on the history of CCHMC, her family, and her journey to becoming a successful pediatric infectious disease specialist and a top administrator at a world-renowned hospital. She spoke of the positive influence and support provided by her mentors throughout her career, as well as, the important role mentorship has in the Medical Sciences Program. The three behaviors Dr. Hostetter encourages students interested in a career in medicine to practice are: polish your kindness, improve your people skills, and always be an optimist. The fundamental goal of public health, basic science research, and clinical medicine is to improve the outcome. Whether it is to improve population health or scientific understanding, the first step to achieving this goal is to accept a challenge. Dr. Hostetter concluded by encouraging all of us to seek out opportunities that not only challenge us but also reward our peers and community.

“Good judgment is the product of experience, and experience is the result of bad judgment.”

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REMINDER: join us at plot 103 in Sigma Sigma Commons for the UC vs. Miami tailgate
Student Spotlight: Alex Balboa

Alex Balboa is a fourth year student in the Medical Sciences program studying for a BS in Neuroscience. He’s president of the Medical Sciences Student Government and also a Peer Leader for a Medical Sciences Learning Community. In his free time, Alex enjoys biking, photography, and watching Cincinnati sports. Currently, he’s applying to Medical Scientist Training Programs in hopes of pursuing a career in Neurology and academic medicine.

Q: Favorite Pokémon?  
A: Snorlax

Q: Favorite meal?  
A: Chipotle burrito

Q: Favorite undergraduate course?  
A: Becoming a Master Physician

Q: Favorite city?  
A: San Francisco
On September 9, all medical sciences students gathered for the mentor match dinner at the Wednesday evening seminar. Major and minor students were introduced to their assigned medical student mentor and “spirit animal” group led by the first and second year medical students. Students had the opportunity to discuss the significance of mentorship, qualities of an influential mentor, and their mentor’s journey for a career in medicine.

One of the greatest components of the Medical Sciences program is its commitment to providing insightful, encouraging mentors. With the inaugural class of the Medical Sciences major, this opportunity intends to maintain a special relationship between mentor and mentee for the next four years. As students of the major progress through their undergraduate years, they will be supported by their mentor as he or she progresses through medical school. This relationship is also invaluable to students of the Medical Sciences minor as they prepare for the application cycle and medical school interviews.

Students will have the opportunity to get to know their mentors at the Wednesday evening seminars but are encouraged to meet with their mentors outside of the scheduled seminars as well. Thank you mentors!